JOHN BULL

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For meaning of this No. see Page III. of cover.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

HANDS OFF MARY ANN

AN ARTICLE EVERY MISTRESS AND EVERY SERVANT SHOULD READ.

SEE

THIS WEEK

NOW ON SALE.

"ALL THE GIRLS ARE AFTER MY HUSBAND."

A Novel Competition. See "MRS. BULL."

GRAVES GRAMOPHONES

If you want a RECORD CHRISTMAS of real enjoyment and good old-fashioned fun and jollity, make sure of securing a GRAVES GRAMOPHONE. There is positively no other way of providing for the amusement and entertainment of your friends which will give a tenth part of the pleasure a Graves Gramophone will bring. Its delights are for all ages, and it provides for all tastes and all occasions.

THIS HANDSOME WELL-BUILT GRAMOPHONE is our own exclusive speciality, and is absolutely up-to-date with every recent improvement. **The Cabinet** is a handsome and substantial construction in finely marked **solid Dark Oak, 12½ × 12½ × 5½ins., polished** to a fine piano finish, and embellished with a tasteful decorative Art metal panel of **Grecian design. Powerful silent steel Motor,** fitted with the latest frictionless bearings, finely proportioned nickel-plated **Taper Tone Arm,** 10in. Turntable, large 16in. Sound Trumpet with nine leaves, and decorated in a charming combination of softly blended Art Shades. **The Sound Reproducer** is constructed in harmony with the latest developments of the science of acoustics, and possesses adequate power to perform full **Military Band Selections** with all their original brilliance and realistic effect, and is so exquisitely sensitive as to reproduce with amazing perfection the most subdued passages of orchestration, as well as the minutest variations of the solo artiste's voice.

5/- with order.

THIS IS A STRAIGHTFORWARD HONEST OFFER. There are no tricks or complications; no delusive promise of something for nothing. The full inclusive price of the machine, with Records and all accessories, is **£2 : 10 : 0** which is divided for convenience of payment into ten monthly instalments of **5/-**. Every machine is delivered safely packed, insured on the railways at our expense, and carriage paid to its destination. There are no packing charges or extras of any kind. Graves Gramophones are sold SOLELY ON THEIR MERITS, and unless you are completely charmed and delighted when you have heard the machine and records you are under no obligation whatever to keep it. We instantly return every penny you have paid. Don't be prejudiced. Until you have heard an up-to-date Graves Gramophone you can form no idea of the powers of this amazing instrument, and you simply don't know what you are missing. Have it sent on approval at our expense, hear it at your leisure in your own home, and if you think we have overstated its attractions by a single word, simply return it carriage forward and have your money refunded at once without any discussion. We agree to accept your decision as final.

WE DELIVER immediately this powerful high-grade GRAMOPHONE (including TEN brilliant Disc Record Selections, 200 Special Silver Steel Needles, with polished hard wood compartment case and all accessories), safely packed, insured and Carriage paid, to all approved orders for **5/-** with order. When you have heard the instrument in your own home, if you are delighted with its performance and fully convinced of the exceptional value and bona-fide character of this remarkable offer, the balance is payable in NINE monthly instalments of **5/-** each. Or if you prefer to pay the balance in a lump sum, you may deduct **2/-** in the £ Cash Discount.

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IMPORTANT. All Gramophone owners should write for our extraordinary offer of Needle and Sapphire Disc Records. **We will deliver** on approval, **20** superb selections according to your choice, carriage paid for **3/-** with order and easy monthly payments if the records are entirely to your satisfaction when tried over on your own machine. All admirers of high class recording should send to-day for our Record Catalogue and all information post free. Write at once for this price challenging book.

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JOHN BULL.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

Vol. XI. No. 287. Saturday, December 2nd, 1911. One Penny.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Letters must be addressed to the Editor or the Publisher, at 93, Long Acre, London, W.C., according to whether they relate to Editorial or Business matters.
All editorial inquiries MUST BE MADE BY LETTER.

TO ADVERTISERS.

All applications for advertising spaces to be made to Messrs. Odhams Ltd., Advertising Dept., 93, Long Acre, London, W.C.

The John Bull League.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

A WHIST DRIVE
WILL BE HELD AT THE
EMPIRE HALL, IMPERIAL BUILDINGS, PINSTONE ST.,
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4th, at 8 p.m.
TICKETS (PRICE 1s. 6d., INCLUDING REFRESHMENTS)
can be obtained from Messrs. L. V. Allan, 16, shdell Road, Broomhill; J. H. Froggatt, 18, Cheadle Street, Hillsborough; Dr. R. H. Wilson, Barnsley Pl'ce; W. H. Dyson, 31, Rushby Street, Pitsmoor; and the Central Secretary, 60, Owler Lane, Pitsmoor.

MANCHESTER AND SALFORD BRANCH.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
(CONFINED TO MEMBERS) WILL BE HELD IN THE
CHORLTON-ON-MEDLOCK TOWN HALL,
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5th, at 8 p.m.
The General Secretary in the Chair.
Business: ELECTION OF COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS.

HULL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WILL BE HELD AT THE HEADQUARTERS,
MANCHESTER HOTEL, GEORGE STREET,
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8th, at 8 p.m.
Chairman: Mr F. W. Morrisey.
Business: ELECTION OF OFFICERS; THE SESSION'S PROGRAMME, ETC.
Admission by production of card of invitation.
MUSICAL PROGRAMME.

ABERDEEN BRANCH

A GRAND SMOKING CONCERT
WILL BE HELD IN THE
BON-ACCORD HOTEL, MARKET STREET,
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13th, at 7.30 p.m.
ADMISSION FREE.

LEICESTER AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

To inaugurate the Winter Session.
A SOCIAL EVENING,
CONSISTING OF
WHIST DRIVE, SUPPER AND CONCERT,
AT
WINN'S ORIENTAL CAFE, MARKET PLACE,
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14th, at 8 p.m.
Chairman: W. F. McAllister Hewlings, Esq.
TICKETS (1s. 6d. EACH)
can be obtained from the Hon. Local Sec., Mr. E. Pinder, 6, Bakewell St., Leicester.

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

A GRAND SMOKING CONCERT
WILL BE HELD AT THE
WHITE HORSE HOTEL, CONGREVE STREET,
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15th, at 8 p.m.
FIRST CLASS PROGRAMME.
LADIES SPECIALLY INVITED. ADMISSION FREE.

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

GERMANY'S GAME.

In this issue we commence a series of articles dealing with the true state of affairs as between Germany and England. We shall probably be blamed in some quarters for our plain speaking, but we shall risk that. *Germany means mischief*—AND WE MEAN BUSINESS.

TROUBLE IN THE CABINET.

The drafting of the Home Rule Bill is taxing Mr. Birrell's ingenuity to the uttermost. Messrs. Haldane and Grey are difficult to please—and there is trouble brewing. And what about Mr. Burns?

SUDDEN CONVERSION.

Strange how many newspapers and public men have hailed the appointment of Mr. Bonar Law to the Opposition Leadership as "the first step towards a Business Government." What will be the next?

DOOMED.

The Insurance Bill, whatever its merits, is doomed. We are a stolid, phlegmatic race, and cannot be made good by Act of Parliament. The Man in the Street has no objection to receiving 9d. for 4d., but he would rather take the odd fivepence straight away, and thus save all the annoyance of the new Bill. He would even be content with fourpence—thus saving the State a penny!

STILL AT IT.

On Monday evening next we have secured first place on the Orders of the Day at the West London Parliament, which meets at the Marylebone Council Chamber, Marylebone Lane, for the following motion: "That in the opinion of this House the present system of Party Government is inconsistent with the best interest of the country, and should be abolished."

A NAVAL SECRET.

Now that Lord Charles Beresford has "let out" what most of us knew about the unpreparedness of the Navy during the recent crisis, we may as well tell the public something it does not know—*i.e.*, that Lord Charlie's book, "The Great Betrayal," was withdrawn from publication on condition that Mr. McKenna got the sack from the Admiralty. It is a striking instance of the working of the Party system that he was thereupon promoted to the Home Office! *Before long we may reveal a much graver Naval scandal.*

The Lay Lawyer.

The announcement of this forthcoming journal has spread consternation in legal circles.

Mr. Justice Grantham.

At the time of going to press Mr. Justice Grantham is in a critical condition. In any event, it is certain that he will never see the Courts again, and by his removal the Bench loses perhaps the most charming type of country gentleman who ever sat on it. Strangely, his nearest rival in this respect is one who, also, must go soon, Mr. Justice Lawrance—or "Long Lawrance," as he is called by the Bar.

Playing at Politics.

An instructive lesson in the public apathy towards Parliament was afforded by the fact that when, a few days ago, there was a schoolboy quarrel between Lord Winterton and Mr. Booth, several of the papers devoted a whole column to the incident, and utterly ignored the rest of the proceedings. Certain journals described Mr. Lloyd George as "rising, white with anger," to protect Mr. Booth against the foul accusation of being a "Company Promoter"! As usual in these encounters, the Speaker easily came out top dog.

Wily Winterton.

It was highly diverting to observe, by the way, how unsuspectingly Mr. Booth accepted as an apology a statement which substituted for the innocuous phrase, "Company Promoter" the opprobrious suggestion of "Guinea Pig"—not, however, that either the one phrase or the other was justified.

An Unwelcome Convert!

The Business Government idea is getting out of hand. Everybody is espousing it—even the Rev. F. B. Meyer—who told a Leicester audience the other day that he "had come to the conclusion that it is necessary, if one is to do real good in the world—to alter the conditions which are inimical to virtue and favour vice—if one is a Christian—to be a politician, *but not a Party politician.*" Now it may not be desirable that a politician should be a Christian, but we protest that the converse is by no means the fact. "Virtue and Vice" are not the concern of Parliament; they belong to the departments of the Preacher, the Schoolmaster, the Parent, the Poet, the Philosopher. Politics is the science of Bread and Butter. No, we do *not* welcome Mr. Meyer.

Aliens on British Juries.

Since the days of Magna Charta, every one of the King's subjects has been supposed to possess the right of trial "by his peers"—that is to say, by his equals in the eye of the law. But, by the clumsy drafting of the Acts relating to the empanelling of juries, any alien on the Rate books is entitled to sit in judgment upon a British citizen—even when his life may be in peril. We have obtained an undertaking from the Home Secretary to have this matter referred to the Committee which is about to enquire into the whole subject of the Jury system; and we shall keep our eye on it.

South Somerset.

Whilst the rival Party organs are giving their respective explanations of the South Somerset election, we venture to throw in one of our own. Mr. Henry Vivian was about the worst candidate who could have been "chosen." We emphasise that word "chosen," because, of course, he was dumped upon the constituency by the caucus. And, like most dumped goods, he represented merely the "leavings." He was one of the most unappetising men who sat on the Liberal benches in the 1906 Parliament—and that is saying much.

Election Expenses.

The Party hacks, who are throwing up their hats at the prospect of the payment of election expenses, seem to us to be a bit "previous." Have they thought what such a measure would entail? £400 a year is a temptation, and the caucuses would no longer have the monopoly of selecting candidates. Wherefore, let us have payment of election expenses.

Learning.

Mr. Runciman, who has left the Education Department to take charge of our turnips, has been down in Lincolnshire, among the small-holdings—there, apparently, to learn how to plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land, and eke to distinguish the difference between wheat, barley, rye, oats and turnip-tops. Until he has completed his education in this department, there will be no truth in the statement that our right hon. friend will go to the the Local Government Board—when Mr. John Burns resigns.

Consumption Notifiable at Last.

The Local Government Board is at last placing consumption among the notifiable diseases. While consumption remained unnotified it could almost be said that the beginning of the campaign against the national scourge had not been made. It goes without saying that care will have to be exercised by the officers of the Board in carrying out the regulation in regard to consumptives earning their livelihood; particularly must it be remembered that they are not on ticket-of-leave.

All Change Here.

From the quantity of correspondence which has reached us we find there is serious cause for discontent among prospective competitors for posts as Customs-Excise Assistants. Without a word of warning new regulations have been sprung upon them, the effect being to disqualify a large number of young men who have probably spent years of study at school, and at evening classes after leaving school, in the hope of securing these appointments. Briefly, what has been done is to reduce the age limit from 22 to 21, to change the date of the examination from November to February, and to add an extra subject to the syllabus. The candidates should have had fair notice of the changes. Many of them are now too old to compete. Many who are just within the limit of time for their first and last chance are confronted with the fact that they have to qualify in mathematics or German within three months—a practical bar to success.

The Official View.

There is, of course, the official view. It is that the examinations are held to obtain the best brains for the State and not for the convenience or advantage of individual candidates. And let it be said at once that the Civil Service Commissioners are only concerned as the executive officers of the Hobhouse Committee, who made the recommendations, to consolidate the examinations for Assistants of Excise, Assistants of Customs, and Clerks for Port Service in the one examination. No objection can be taken to the new regulations on this ground; but there was no hurry. The Treasury, knowing that great injustice would follow the sudden enforcement of the Hobhouse recommendations, might at least have permitted the conditions of the last examination to apply to that now announced, and then have taken advantage of the opportunity to publish the change in specific terms. It is not cricket to hang a man without giving him time to say his prayers.

GLAMORGAN JURYMEN IN ARMS.

The lot of the London common-juryman is bad enough, goodness knows, but apparently his state is luxury and happiness compared with that of his brother in Glamorgan. Here is a recent balance sheet. Fourteen days at the Law Courts. Receipts: Judge's announcement, "Gentlemen, you are discharged." Expenses: Fourteen days' railway fare, 39s. 8d., refreshments, 28s.; total out-of-pocket, £3 7s. 8d. Add fourteen days' labour at 14 hours a day—Total deficit, £10 14s. 8d. However, as the judges always eloquently insist that it is a high privilege to serve one's country as a juryman, it may be all right, though we are bound to point out the peculiarity that lawyers have taken care not to share the privilege.

THE SILLINESS OF PRIMMER.

The colleagues of the Rev. Jacob Primmer on the Dunfermline Burgh School Board were justified in criticising him for wasting their time with trifles. Mr. Primmer appears to be one of those gentlemen who sees popery and popish plots in the most unpopish conditions. Probably he looks under his bed every night expecting to find a Jesuit concealed there. For the moment he is alarmed by the following pictures: "The Interior of a Nunnery"—High School; "The Interior of a Monastery"—Technical School; "A Popish Bishop blessing the Crusaders," and "a large picture said to represent the Lord Jesus Christ"—M'Lean School; wherefore he demands their removal. The queer thing is that no member of the Board has discovered anything popish about them except the prescient Primmer, who, if Dr. John Ross is to be credited, "wastes time with trifles, ignores the teachers, and seems to think they are a parcel of fools seeking to proselytise the children." Thus was Primmer squashed and his visions treated as naught.

CHALLENGED TO A DUEL.

While he was going to the Memorial Hall the other evening to deliver his lecture on the Italian atrocities in Tripoli, Mr. McCullagh, the returned war correspondent, was challenged to a duel by an Italian officer, who eventually turned up at the meeting and kicked up no end of a dust. Naturally Mr. McCullagh declined the duel. He is a writer, not a butcher.

ABSENT-MINDED.

It much fears us that His Honour Judge Gye is what Mr. Rudyard Kipling would call an absent-minded beggar. The story goes that he turned up at the Basingstoke Town Hall a few days ago, under the impression that he had to hold a court there, though in fact he had held one the Monday previous, and should have known another was not due until December. His Honour will really have to take care of himself, or one of these days he will be sentencing a judgment debtor to death.

WANTED FOR A NORTHAMPTON CHURCH.

The Vicar of Roade, Northampton, wants a pensioner, under 50, for work at church and institute, the wages offered being 7s. per week—whether paid in cash or leather not stated. Cannot our rev. friend increase his price another 6d.—thus bringing it up to the Insurance Bill level?

"A HUSBAND AND A HOME."

There is a prize, indeed! We are in the know about most of MARY'S enterprises, but she says she is not going to spoil the sale of *Mrs. Bull* by disclosing to our readers the identity of "the popular actor" who is to be given away, as a husband, with a Free Home thrown in.

PARSONIFIED IMPUDENCE AT BIRKENHEAD.

For cool impudence commend us to a circular, sent to all the publicans of Birkenhead from Brunswick Wesleyan Church, over the signature of an aqua-puritanical parson named Tunbridge, who announces that "on Sunday in the above church I shall prove that drink is a direct cause of poverty and crime, that it weakens the body, shortens life, dulls the mind, and is a menace to our national well-being. . . Should you be able to disprove any of my statements, an opportunity will be given to you during the meeting. Your silence will be interpreted to mean that you cannot refute these charges. . . . I may say that copies of this letter will be widely circulated in the neighbourhood." This must be a free country, after all, or the mere fact of a man being engaged in the legalised and highly-taxed sale of a refreshment which is as harmless as tea when taken without abuse would not expose him to insolent pulpit cheap-jacks like Mr. Tunbridge. Suppose one of the licensed victuallers retorted that on Saturday night he proposed to demonstrate in the four-ale bar that religious mania is the cause of much crime, and challenged Mr. Tunbridge to come and disprove it?

LAW AND THE SUSPECT.

On suspicion of having murdered a Durham station-master, Atkinson, the casual porter, has been detained in custody for a month and now released on an application made to the magistrate by the Chief Constable. Atkinson has been put to costs, necessarily serious to him, in preparing his defence; he has suffered discomfort and agony of body and mind, and he has lost the wages of five weeks' work, or the chance of obtaining them. In return, the Chief Constable, who has obviously blundered in making the charge, does not even apologise, the man's solicitor is refused any allowance whatever for the expenses incurred, and it goes without the saying that his client will get nothing out of the Treasury. It is really monstrous that an innocent British citizen should be treated in this way.

TO WHAT BASE USES DO WE COME!

Some years ago a marvellous Turkey carpet was manufactured to the order of an Oriental potentate temporarily sojourning in London. It was a truly wondrous specimen of textile skill, a veritable "carpet of happiness," with its 80 feet of milk-white weft and its surface all adorned with flower-encircled Cupids and a sequence of the most bewitching houris ever threaded through a loom. It was destined, too, for none but Beauty's treading, beauty in this instance being represented by a charming queen of musical comedy who had consented to return Indiaward in that Rajah's suite. But, alas, for female fickleness! At the last moment the Star of Song concluded not to tempt the perils of the Kala Bahr, and the jilted Rajah, having now no use for it, caused the carpet to be stowed ignominiously away in one of the London Dock Company's dingy warehouses by Thames-side. All this happened years and years ago. That Oriental potentate is long since back again in India, and has quite probably forgotten his English "princess" and the carpet, both. Meanwhile the latter is figuratively eating its head off in that warehouse, where 80 feet of heavy-pile cannot, like Puck, be concealed within an acorn. We hear the Dock Company are willing to take any reasonable offer to get rid of their white elephant, so now is someone's chance to buy.

ORGANIST WANTED.

The Rev. Dr. Porter, All Saints' Vicarage, Southport, wants for his church an organist who is a teetotaler and a non-smoker. Does our rev. friend object to one who eats meat?

L.C.C. CRANKS.

The refusal of a refreshment licence to the Hippodrome is an injustice to the proprietors, an insult to the public, and a disgrace to those who voted for it—amongst whom we are sorry to see were the two members for South Hackney, one of whom is chairman of a local club and the other of whom is a member of the National Liberal Club, at both of which institutions there is every facility for alcoholic refreshment. How would these two puritans like to have to run over to the nearest public house every time they felt thirsty?

"THE BISHOP AND THE BABY."

This incident, from the Clerkenwell County Court, ought to interest the Bishop of London and *Mrs. Bull* who are having a little difference over the limitation of big families, the Bishop being somewhat out of court by the fact that he is himself unmarried. A Hornsey man, named Sharpe, appeared to a judgment summons and was questioned as to his means. "I have had twenty-eight children to bring up," he said. "Good gracious," exclaimed the deputy-judge. "How many are alive?" asked the representative of the plaintiff. "Sixteen," responded the man of Hornsey. "Well," said the judge, "I think you ought to have the Victoria Cross"—presumably for conspicuous gallantry in the field. We shall not interfere between *Mrs. Bull*, the Bishop, the Judge, and Mr. Sharpe, in regard to the multiplication of children, however; but we may be excused for wondering what view the Bishop would take if, being in the position of the gallant Sharpe, he had his quiver so full of them.

OH! FOR A BUSINESS P.O.

Encouraged by our recent Questions in the House as to the large number of dormant deposits in the Post Office Savings Bank, a reader wrote respecting a sum believed to be standing to the credit of his stepmother, and this is the remarkable reply he received:—

> With reference to your letter of the 11th inst. I am directed by the Postmaster-General to inform you that no alphabetical list of Post Office Savings Bank depositors is kept, and that the Department is unable to ascertain whether any particular person is a depositor unless it is furnished with the name of the Post Office at which the account was opened and the date about which the first deposit was made, or with the date and place of some recent transaction.

Apart from the absence of any alphabetical list of depositors—which would be of obvious public convenience—just reflect upon the irony of asking for the particulars of "recent transactions" in regard to dead accounts!

KILLJOYS AT ILFORD.

The puritans of Ilford have scored a heavy point against the National Sunday League. As the Essex County Council have refused to grant a licence to the local Hippodrome unless the place is closed on Sundays, the admirable concerts of the League have had to be abandoned without a moment's warning. The programme was of a high-class character, and for the life of us we are unable to see what anybody not a pietistic crank can object to in it. The queer thing is that the killjoys themselves run concerts at P.S.A.'s in their own Bethels, and that they pay artists to sing songs not dissimilar from those sung at the Sunday evening gatherings of the League. Evidently humbug is the reigning monarch at Ilford.

THE CHRISTMAS NUMBER.

We are sure our readers will agree that this is *John and Mary*, the joint Christmas issue of ourselves and *Mrs. Bull*, published December 9th. This magnificent annual contains 64 pages of seasonable drawings, tales, poems, etc. Order it at once from your newsagent—you will be sorry if you miss it.

A RELIC OF BARBARISM.

The inhabitants of some thirty parishes in Warwickshire were recently summoned to pay to the Earl of Dalkeith, at Knightlow Cross, the "Wroth Silver" tax, and were due to assemble before "sunrising" and deposit the amount in a hole in a large block of stone. This exaction is said to date from Druidical times. We wonder when any of the parish "Wroth Silver" payers ever had the courage to test the legality of the tax? We suspect that it would be about as legal as an attempt to impose upon the parishes the annual re-roofing of a Druidical temple by maidens and the slaughter of any who failed to accomplish the allotted task before sundown.

A BROAD-MINDED PARSON.

It is good to hear of a broad-minded man of the cloth here and there, by-the-way. A little while ago, many of the clergy and ministers of Dawley sent a letter to the District Council expressing the usual pious horror of the Sunday concerts in that town. The Rev. Edward Parry, of Malinslee Vicarage, did not sign it. Why? "Very few of the young people who attend these sacred concerts," he says, "have snug parlours and musical instruments, such as my reverend brethren and our city fathers enjoy. What Pharisees we all are on occasion!" Well done, vicar. We take wine with you.

PILLS AND PIETY.

Writing from Southport, a Sunday school secretary sends us a card circulated among the children of the town. On one side is a Christ-like figure, with a halo round the head, described as "St. James the Less"; on the other, an announcement that "Mothers should never be without pills (Holloway's) and ointment, as they are invaluable for children's ailments." And still it is said we are not an enterprising people.

OF YOUR CHARITY.

Please give us a helping hand with our Xmas Fund for the London poor. Money, clothing, toys—anything calculated to brighten the lot of those to whom, as a rule, the wish of a "Merry Christmas" is a cruel taunt. You will find all about the scheme on another page. Last year you were very kind, and many a poor family blessed you.

JOURNALISTIC AMENITIES.

We freely acknowledge the great assistance rendered by the *Pall Mall Gazette* in bringing to light the scandal of the Law Guarantee and Trust failure; but was not it just a little ungenerous of our contemporary in its article on the result of the recent appeal—when the verdict we obtained in the libel action brought by the late valuer was upheld—to studiously avoid any reference to this journal? We were euphemistically referred to as "the other side"! Never mind—we again thank the *Pall Mall Gazette* for its help.

MR. FREDERIC HARRISON ON PARTY.

"The fierce rivalry of parties, and the way in which party absorbs all political thought amongst us, is a growing danger. It may be urged that the healthy organisation of party is an essential condition of Parliamentary government. As practised with us, the organisation of party tends to crush and stifle the free play of public opinion. Members of Parliament feel it a duty not to embarrass their party leaders by discussing any question which their leaders do not sanction, or by even criticising anything they do or omit to do. The free formation of public opinion is almost as difficult as under the despotism of a Czar or a Napoleon."—(*From "The Contemporary Review,"* February, 1886 p. 275.)

OUR FOREIGN POLICY.

As we go to press, Sir Edward Grey has just made his speech, and been followed by Mr. Bonar Law. On the whole, we were agreeably surprised by the Foreign Secretary, who evidently dominates the Cabinet (backed up by Mr. Asquith) in regard to our policy. He showed himself to be a shrewder and a stronger man than we had regarded him, and, with a little "bucking up," he should soon tackle Germany in the right spirit. That "bucking up" we shall endeavour to administer. He was followed by Mr. Bonar Law, who evinced a spirit of statesmanlike chivalry, and got in a good point when he expressed the view that the object of putting up Mr. Lloyd George at the Mansion House to utter the historic warning was the best possible way of emphasising the unanimity of the Government.

SMALL FRY.

Then came Ramsay Macdonald—as usual, cold, raucous and jerky, and steeped in stupendous ignorance of the European situation. One illustration will suffice. He really believed, or pretended to believe, that our friendly alliance with Russia was primarily prompted by a desire to bring about greater liberty amongst her people! Mr. Asquith tried to look serious, but couldn't; he was thinking of the possibility of war with Germany, and had a mental picture of the map of Europe in his eye. Why *does* Leicester insist on sending this political charlatan to the House? And then came Mr. Dillon—and we went.

THE WEEK'S "CHESTNUT."

During a function at which a famous Bishop was presiding, an intimation was given that owing to the crowded state of the building no further persons were to be admitted. The story, however, is being told that shortly afterwards a lady drove up, and being refused admission, said to the attendant, "You must let me in, I am the Bishop's lady." To which came the reply, "I am very sorry, but I could not do so even if you were his wife."

A DEFINITION.

PARTY POLITICS.—A TWO-HEADED FREAK, WHO IS ALWAYS QUARRELLING WITH HIMSELF.

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

For stating, in a report of a cricket match, that: "Freeman scored with an UTTERLY IMPOSSIBLE *shot,"*

THE SPORTS TIMES
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating, under the heading, "Soldiers' Long March," that: "Although the WIND *was* ANKLE DEEP *they covered a distance of twenty miles in 5¼ hours."*

THE EVENING TELEGRAM (Toronto)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating, in the "Colwyn Bay Advertiser Weekly Whatsgoingon," that: "It was good for a man to marry a woman; it was good for his soul; it helped him to become perfect THROUGH SUFFERING."

THE REV. W. YOUNGER (of Harrogate)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating, in its announcement of the objects of the Church of England Temperance Society: "1.—The promotion of Habits of INTEMPERANCE."

THE TEMPERANCE CHRONICLE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

*For announcing that: "*OPEN-AIR *Meeting will be held* IN *Primitive Methodist School Room, Odcombe, Saturday, November 18th."*

THE NATIONAL INSURANCE BILL COMMITTEE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that a horse "bolted, one of its legs going OVER *the trams,"*

THE GLASGOW NEWS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating, in its report of a football match, that: "Hogg showed many pretty touches of the side-slip and back-heel variety, which INVARIABLY DID, *and* SOMETIMES DID NOT, *make ground,"*

THE DAILY RECORD AND MAIL (Glasgow)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating, in his address to the Willesden District Council Electors (published in the "Willesden Chronicle"), that he "should INSIST *upon the* UNFAIR TREATMENT *of Voluntary Schools,"*

MR. CHARLES WAGNER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that a certain gentleman was "born in 1873, and ABOUT THREE CABS,"

THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that Lady Colin Campbell was "widow of Lord Colin Campbell and BROTHER *of the present Duke of Argyll,"*

THE SUNDAY CHRONICLE (Manchester)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For publishing an article, entitled "Why the Servant Tax WON'T *Work," and adding as the heading to one of the paragraphs, "How It* WILL *Work."*

THE WEEKLY DISPATCH
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

*For announcing, in the "Southend and Westcliff Graphic," its "*QUARTERLY ANNUAL *Meeting,"*

THE WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in a legal report that a lad estimated a distance at "about two rods," which he subsequently defined as "eleven feet," and adding, "The magistrate said: 'He is QUITE RIGHT—*a rod is 5½* YARDS,'"

THE EVENING TIMES
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

GERMANY MUST BE STOPPED!

PLAIN WORDS ON THE PRESENT SITUATION—DEMAND FOR AN ACTIVE POLICY—DEEDS, NOT WORDS.

The result of the "discussion" (we emphasise the word advisedly) which at the time of going to press is proceeding in the House of Commons, will doubtless be to lull once more the public mind into a sense of indifference in regard to the German menace. We fully recognise the awful responsibility which rests upon, not only Ministers and Members of Parliament, but equally upon the responsible Press of the country, to avoid saying anything calculated to aggravate anti-German sentiment on this side, or anti-British sentiment in Germany. But there is a greater responsibility even than this. If a British statesman, or a journalist, is honestly convinced that grave danger is threatening the land, and if he believes that every day is strengthening the hands of the enemy—above all, if he believes that to-day means certain victory and to-morrow possible defeat for his country—then it is not patriotism, but treachery, for him to maintain silence.

Rightly or wrongly, we are satisfied that Germany means mischief—mischief, that is, in the sense of territorial and trade aggression, which must of necessity strike at the foundations of our Empire. From her own point of view, let it be freely admitted, such expansion is a necessity for her existence, and no one can blame her for looking for it in the direction of least resistance.

A Look Round.

During the last forty years—that is to say, ever since Germany became more than a geographical expression—German industries have been growing at a wonderful rate. At the time of the war with France, Germany had a population of forty millions; to-day it is sixty-five millions. In 1870, the majority of her people were engaged upon the land. In 1911, she is a great industrial state, no longer able to supply her own food wants, and relying more and more upon foreign trade for the prosperity of her people.

Rightly or wrongly, the Germans consider that, if their foreign trade is to be maintained, increased colonial possessions are desirable and even necessary; but when she surveys the world she finds the way barred wherever inclination would take her. The most natural form of territorial expansion would be in the direction of Asia, at the expense of Turkey. But, although Turkey is weak, she has, for one reason or another, powerful supporters, or she would have if Germany entered upon a policy of aggression. Such a policy would certainly be resisted by not only Russia, but by Germany's own ally, Austria; and, therefore, while German influence in Turkey is great and growing, the territorial expansion for which she is sighing is not within her grasp in this direction. If we turn to western Europe, it is natural that Germany should desire to annex Belgium, and even Holland. In a sense, she *is* annexing the former of these two countries by means of pacific penetration, but an attempt to establish anything like a suzerainty, much less incorporation, would mean certain war with England and France, supported, more or less effectively, by the Belgians and the Dutch. Consequently, in Europe Germany finds her progress barred, and she, therefore, has to look abroad for any accession of territory. She had at one time hoped to create a great colonial Empire in South America, more especially Brazil, but the enforcement of the Monroe doctrine has made that impossible. She had hoped to get great pieces of China, and, indeed, holds a certain amount of Chinese soil; but there again she finds her progress barred by the great island state of Japan, in alliance with England, and in close touch with the United States. There remains Africa. The northern part of that great continent is in the possession of France and Spain. In the south, British influence is supreme, and although elsewhere Germany has secured to herself a considerable African empire, it is of small value to her. She can only hope, without war, to pick up the remainders that have been left by other great states, more especially England. In fact, wherever there are unoccupied territories on the earth's surface which Germany would like to possess, she finds that England has interests—claims that may have lain dormant for years, but still interests which entitle us to veto German occupation. England has so many of the fat places of the earth, and stands in the way of Germany so frequently, that it is not surprising that Germans are irritated, disgusted, hostile.

Naval Jealousy.

But it is not only the inability to obtain new provinces of value, and the belief, probably well founded, that England is the principal obstacle to her obtaining them, that causes German hostility towards ourselves. There are many in Germany who question the value of the colonial territory which Germany owns and is doing her best to increase, but there is no one in Germany who questions the value of that great foreign commerce which has already raised her to the rank of the second industrial Power in Europe, and which may very well give her, before many years have passed, a larger foreign trade than our own.

It is here that Germany feels, and has felt ever since the Boer War, her impotence. Whilst we have a navy overwhelmingly superior to that of Germany, her foreign trade lies largely at our mercy. Take a map of Europe and note how England is placed geographically as against Germany. Then remember that England has the greatest naval strength of any country in the world, and the determination of Germany to have a navy strong enough to meet that of England upon equal terms is explained. All the fine talk about peace and good-will and what a conference might do, or what might be achieved by arbitration at Geneva, will never induce the German people to give up their hope of a navy able to cope with that of England, unless and until they can be persuaded that England is willing to play a friendly part, and to help, rather than hinder, German expansion.

Germany's View of the English.

And in this connection it must be borne in mind that the Germans believe England to be a decadent state. They believe that, given a fair field and a straight fight between the two countries, Germany would smash England. The Germans see in their rival across the water a people who, as they think, have lost their virility; a people who have ceased to be a nation of fighters and have become a nation of shouters; a people no longer physically sound, but, so far as a large proportion of the population is concerned, emasculated—a people of forty-five millions, of whom, according to a man who was recently their Prime Minister, thirteen millions are ever on the brink of starvation; a people owning one-fifth of the earth's surface, but owning it so loosely that, so far as those territories are concerned in which white men can live, the tie is almost invisible. A people so little patriotic that they will not consent to that military service which is general in every other great state; a landless democracy, dependent upon the foreigner for four-fifths of the corn, and for a large portion of the meat, it eats. As pictured by Germany, England is a foe not only insolent, unscrupulous and grasping, but rotten to the core.

(To be continued.)

THE REV. F. B. MEYER AND "UNWANTED" CHILDREN.

"THE MISSION OF HOPE" AND THE "HAVEN FOR HOMELESS LITTLE ONES."

In June last we exposed the traffic in "unwanted" children, and passed some severe strictures upon Mrs. Ransome Wallis and her "Haven for Homeless Little Ones" at Croydon. We clearly showed—and it has never been denied—that the notorious Mrs. Wilesmith, who is now serving a long term of imprisonment for ill-treatment of poor Florence Pastorfield, obtained that child through Mrs. Ransome Wallis. Another point which we made perfectly clear was that Mrs. Ransome Wallis had herself been fined the maximum sum for neglecting, ill-treating and exposing a child.

The reason we return to the subject is the following letter, written to the *Christian World*:—

SIR,—On October 6th a special conference was held of vice-presidents, council, and friends at Caxton Hall, to consider the work of the Haven for Homeless Little Ones, with a view to strengthening its position. Several gentlemen were added to the council, who will be responsible for the control of the work. After full and careful enquiry, it was unanimously resolved to use all the influence possible to further and strengthen the endeavours of the Society to help and receive this exceptionally needy class of unfortunate children.

The financial burden is very heavy, and £1,000 is at once needed to make proper provision for the children for the winter, and to put the work on a sound financial basis. The council earnestly plead for generous and immediate help in the Name of Christ, who said, "Inasmuch as ye did it unto the least of these My little ones, ye did it unto Me."—Yours faithfully,

F. B. MEYER,
Chairman and Vice-President.

Now we wish to be perfectly frank. We hope the public will not subscribe a penny piece of the £1,000 asked by the Rev. F. B. Meyer. Moreover, we suggest that to invoke the name of Christ in support of a huge baby-farm, run on the lines of the "Haven for Homeless Little Ones," is the height of blasphemy!

MEYER IN A NEW ROLE.

Now about the "Mission of Hope," which we find advertised pretty extensively in the Cocoa Press and so-called Christian journals.

It is an establishment carried on at 93, Grove Lane, Denmark Hill, for the purpose of "the reception of expecting mothers (single women) of otherwise good character." The Rev. F. B. Meyer figures as "Patron," and Mrs. Ransome Wallis occupies the dual position of member of the Committee and Honorary Secretary.

"The Mission of Hope!" We wonder who is responsible for the selection of this beautiful name? We can imagine some poor girl, almost driven mad by mental and physical agony on account of her coming motherhood, and having nowhere to turn to in her distress, grasping at this "Mission of Hope" as a heaven-sent refuge. If the girl *with* child and *without* money, however, in her innocence imagines that her entry to the Denmark Hill establishment is only a matter of "knocking at the door," she will be very much mistaken.

Here are some of the conditions: The girl must pay ten shillings a week before confinement; fifteen shillings a week afterwards. Also the medical fee, one guinea, and five shillings a week for baby from date of birth. Moreover, she is expected, during the time of waiting for her confinement, to help "cheerfully" in the various branches of work carried on in the home; and she may not go beyond the garden without the matron's permission. All letters she must show to the matron; and no male visitors are allowed.

At the time of writing, we have no knowledge as to whether this maternity home is run jointly with, or separate from, the Croydon baby-farm, but, at any rate, it is under practically the same management.

REFORMATORIES AGAIN.

THE HARSH OPERATION OF THE CHILDREN ACT.

The mother of a boy committed to the "Mount Edgcumbe" training ship tells us that she was expecting him to come home on December 5, as the period for which he had been committed by the magistrate expires then, but the officials require her to find him work before they allow him to leave the ship. She has, therefore, endeavoured to obtain him a situation, but possible employers naturally want to see the lad first. She asks whether the authorities have power, in these circumstances, to detain him. We are afraid that they have. The fatuous Children Act contains a provision that, though the term for which a magistrate has sentenced a boy to detention in a reformatory has expired, he may still be kept under the "supervision" of the authorities until he is eighteen—which usually means that he is found some situation, which *the authorities* think suitable, in the neighbourhood of the institution; and this arbitrary increase is made in the sentence notwithstanding that the magistrate took into consideration all the facts of the case when apportioning the period of punishment.

"BE NOT CLEANLY OVERMUCH."

A NECESSARY MODERN ADAPTATION OF AN OLD INJUNCTION.

The Training Battalion of the Royal Engineers is stationed at Chatham, and we have every reason to believe that a number of men have deserted from there quite recently. It often happens that the spectator at the football match sees far more of the game than the players, and, in this case, therefore, perhaps we shall be able to acquaint the Commanding Officer of the reason for this defection.

We have ample evidence that the officer in command is well liked by his men. He is described to us by many correspondents as a genial and efficient soldier. He is not, however, called upon to be present where all the unpleasantness arises. The root of the trouble is what is known as "conservancy"—*i.e.*, the cleaning of barrack rooms, etc., for inspection—and the lengths to which this unpleasant duty is carried are stated to be almost beyond belief. It is, we are informed, a common sight to see men sitting and standing about in the open air (even at this time of year) to eat their tea on the night before, and breakfast on the morning of, one of the C.O.'s weekly inspection days, for fear they should sully the immaculate whiteness of the floors, tables and forms, or dull the chain-burnished "table corners" and "form bolts" of the mess-room furniture before it is inspected. In the barrack rooms it is said to be common to see each man's blankets laid on the floor, immediately after scrubbing, for the occupants to walk upon and thus save the floor—which is not good for them from a medical point of view.

As cleanliness is next to godliness, surely we may, in this case, be pardoned for adapting the old injunction to "Be not *cleanly* overmuch"!

"BESIEGED IN BOND STREET."

A DOUBTFUL SECOND-HAND GIFT HORSE.

Some few weeks ago we dealt under this heading with the Imperial Rifle Club, and suggested that the management of this "cock and hen" institution should pay its servants their wages. At the time our article appeared the doors of the club were closed to members, but we have now before us a "private and confidential" notice to members, which states that the temporary difficulties which necessitated its closing have been overcome. With child-like simplicity, it also announces that the directors have decided to give the members the opportunity of becoming the proprietors of the club, instead of appealing to outsiders for financial aid. But what of the old adage, "Once bitten, twice shy"?

WORRYING THE POLICE.

WHY IS THE BIRMINGHAM FORCE DISSATISFIED?

If the inhabitants of Birmingham have any complaint with reference to the vigilance of their police, we should advise them to have a word with the Watch Committee, and ascertain whether that body is aware of the tyranny that is being practised in certain quarters with reference to the constables, and the dissatisfaction which consequently exists in the force. We may have more to say upon this matter.

BIRTHS, BISHOPS AND BUNKUM.

MALTHUS V. INGRAM.

By E. M. APPLETON.

It is a curious fact that what one clergyman will spill his soul in advocating to-day, another will spend his strength in denouncing to-morrow. There is no more striking example of this than in the respective attitudes of the Rev. Dr. Malthus and the present Bishop of London as regards the birth-rate.

The learned Dr. Malthus a hundred years ago, even as the aforementioned learned Bishop to-day, made a speciality of babies. In this respect there is something paradoxical about the mental outlook of these two rev. gentlemen: Malthus, the father of a large family, preached the doctrine of the small family for other people; whilst the Bishop of London, a bachelor, continues to advocate large families. Thus the wheel of time brings round some strange reversals, and we now find our reverend Prelate attempting to stamp out the fire kindled by a former brother of the cloth. A strange world, my masters!

Like charity, the word Malthusian is now made to cover a multitude of sins. We see it daily used with a significance entirely alien to the doctrine of the man to whom the word owes its origin. What, then, were the opinions of that reformer? They are to be found in a pamphlet (published in the year 1798), entitled "The Principles of Population." In that essay the writer maintained the natural tendency of population to increase faster than the means of subsistence. He asserted that animal and vegetable life is so prolific that, if allowed free room to multiply, in a few thousand years it would swamp the world. The only limit to its increase, he said, is the want of room and food.

MORE MALTHUSIAN THAN MALTHUS.

In the case of man, the more immediate checks are restraint and outside causes, such as famines, wars, bad nourishment of children, diseases, etc.

Malthus saw that even though, from birth to death, Nature is trying to put us in our coffins, we shall eventually have to face the problem of the food supply in relation to the increase of population.

From these conclusions, he argued that no one ought to marry until he is absolutely certain of being able to support a family. But he gave no sanction to the theories and practices now known as Malthusian. It was posterity that provided him with that corollary—a corollary which must surely make the poor parson writhe in his grave.

Looking at this theory of his in the light of later knowledge, we see that he made two fatal omissions in his calculations. He knew not that as nations become more civilised they become less prolific, nor that huge areas of corn-bearing land at the moment of his writing were lying fallow. As far as he went, however, there was very little in his essay to which exception might be taken.

It would seem that his advice in the matter of improvident marriages was simple horse-sense.

Let us now judge how far the clerical mind has moved within the last hundred years.

ANOTHER TURBULENT PRIEST.

The Bishop of London has again been raising his voice on the subject of the declining birth-rate. "It is as completely proved," he says, "as anything can be, that the cause of all this is a deliberate limitation of families." He then quotes Professor Taylor: "That which was first encouraged in England some thirty-five years ago has gradually spread like wildfire among the middle-class population of the land, and the true wealth of the nation, full-healthed, bright-eyed and happy-hearted children, has more or less gone down before it." Then the Bishop rends his garments, scatters ashes on his head, and denounces the whole business in good set terms as "a gigantic evil." Further, he has discovered the cause of this "gigantic evil." He puts it down to "the miserable gospel of comfort," which he says is sucking the nation's life-blood, and tells us that we must live ourselves, and teach others to live, the simpler, harder life our fathers lived when they made Britain what it is to-day, and so on and so forth. There you have it: Cause; effect; and, as a remedy, the simple life. The simple life, my friends, that is what we must return to. The simple life which our forefathers lived when the luxuries of bathrooms, taxi-cabs, and week-ends were not. My dear Sir! My very dear Sir!

Why attempt to remove the mote from thy brother's eye with that beam so particularly obvious in thine own? What about Fulham Palace and ten thousand a year? Of course, these things may be necessary in order to preserve the dignity of the Church, but I seem to remember a phrase which was applied to its Founder to the effect that He had not where to lay His head.

If we are to lead the simple life, my Lord, why not set the example yourself?

But putting aside the Palace and its appurtenances, can one really believe that the middle-classes are limiting their families simply in order to be able to wallow in luxury? The lower classes, as we call them, do not exactly wallow in riches, and yet I gather they also share the "gigantic evil" and come under the episcopal ban.

The very lowest, it is true, seem to take no thought for the morrow, and in their case babies are plentiful, though bread is not. Does that commend itself to the Bishop?

TAKING THOUGHT FOR THE MORROW.

As a matter of fact, the rev. gentleman is on the wrong scent. In order to understand the question it is necessary to concentrate a little brain power upon it. We are told that mental proficiency is proportionate to the number of convolutions of the brain. If that be true, it would appear from recent events that most of our Church dignitaries were behind the door when the process was in progress.

Unhappy middle-classes! They find themselves between two mill-stones—always come in for the kicks. Aristocracy is beyond the reach of criticism, and democracy does not care a curse anyway; so that in the matter of taxes and heart-to-heart talks the middle-classes bear the brunt.

But does the Bishop imagine that his homily will increase the family of the butcher, the baker or candle-stick maker by one solitary baby? I doubt it.

As a matter of fact, the middle-classes are no more selfish or self-indulgent than any other class, neither do they hold a monopoly of wickedness. The stress of circumstances is making the middle-class man take more thought for the morrow.

It is not that he covets luxury or comfort; he is far less comfortable to-day than those forefathers of his who made the British Empire what it is, and so forth and so on. A hundred years ago, it was far easier for a middle-class man to earn a living and to secure his family against poverty.

When he now wickedly refuses to fill his house with "full-healthed, bright-eyed and happy-hearted children," he is thinking of the possibility of both him and them falling under the heels of grim-eyed poverty.

That such a consideration is worthy of attention is fully proved by the fact that in the period of the last two months some fifty-three persons have been driven to self-murder by the direct stimulus of poverty and unemployment.

These were not all drawn from the lower classes.

SOME SAD CASES.

Witness the following:—

"Francis Emil Theodore, retired merchant (Ranelagh), shot himself. Became very depressed over financial trouble;" also "Herbert Norton, grocer (Melton Mowbray), 35 years of age, poisoned himself. Had some money troubles;" also "Arthur Soar, butcher (Leen-side), aged 46, hanged himself. Worried about his wife who had had an accident, and also about his business."

I could fill this page with similar quotations, but these will suffice. There is much signification in such jumpings to the Great Beyond. Does anyone outside a lunatic asylum imagine that one of these unfortunates put out the candle of his life in a fit of spleen engendered by the thought that he might shortly be forced to give up his accustomed truffles and champagne? If so, that man imagines a vain thing. I am convinced that what the poor fellows dreaded was the fate reserved for those who in this world lose position and wealth.

I venture to think that, until our Bishop can produce some answer to this sphinx-riddle other than vain babblings about the leading of the simple life beloved of our forefathers, the middle-class man will continue to plump for Malthus. Poor old Malthus! I wonder what he thinks!

"BRAININE"
The only Cure for "Nerves" and Worry.
See advt. page 789.

"BEWARE OF FRIED FISH!"

WHAT THE TRADE AND OUR READERS THINK OF "FRIED-FISH WAITER'S" INDICTMENT.

The article in our last issue has aroused a storm of protest from the fried fish trade. One of the largest Hull firms of fish merchants write asking what harm could salt water possibly do? In nearly every fried fish shop, they say, there is a small brine tub to clean it, and add, "Surely it is well for the fishmonger to turn his fish out of the package as soon as it arrives from the station, and clean it in a brine tub!" They assert that not a fish merchant at any port dare send an ounce of second quality fish away if he wishes to keep his trade together, whilst as there are fish shops springing up every day, and competition is very keen, the retailer has to be very particular indeed. "The fish is fried in nothing but the purest oil and best beef dripping. A trade which supplies the public with the only food which can never be cornered is," they say, "deserving of encouragement. Fried fish is the cheapest and most nutritious food a poor man can place upon his table."

One of the friers says that he always uses brine containing vinegar and coarse salt, in which he cleanses the fish to free it from slime, afterwards washing it in a mixture containing potash crystals dissolved in water. He also uses lime for skate, but only in cases where it is very red and large, and requires bleaching.

One of the consumers, however, says that only five or six weeks ago his wife ate for supper some fried fish purchased at a certain "noted place," but afterwards he "thought she would have died in the night in fearful agony; her body was in a shocking state; her hands were puffed up, and, in fact, it was pitiful to see her agony."

A Leicester reader states that it would not pay friers to use common fish, as, besides being dark when cooked, it would cost twice as much for oil. "As for using Condy's fluid, you would have yellow fish when cooked." He says he has had some people coming every night, and has not heard of a single case of poisoning in all his twenty years' experience. "Ray and roker are small skate, not large, as 'Waiter' says. They are much sweeter than large skate, and usually cost more money."

A Highgate correspondent tells us that a short time ago he visited a shop for the purpose of enjoying a fish supper, but is sorry to say he did not, as the fish had a "limey" taste. This, however, is not a very harrowing experience.

A Bedford fried fish shopkeeper says that no well-known fishmonger who has a regular trade, especially in a country town, could contaminate his fish with Condy's fluid, brine, etc., or he would soon have to close his business. "'Waiter' is," he states, "very wide of the mark in his assertion that there is a handsome profit to be made in the trade, as the increased price of fish, frying oil, etc., leave very little margin."

A Barnsbury tradesman says he has been in the business for forty years, and certainly never before heard of such doings as "Fried Fish Waiter" details. "Both for cleaning purposes," he says, "and to give a little flavour we do use salt, as in other ways of cooking fish. No class of people use more salt in preparing their fish than the Jews, and no one can say *they* eat bad fish." To talk of serving fish left from Friday to Monday night he describes as absurd—as, apart from the sanitary inspector, he personally has visits from a lady appointed under the Food and Drugs Act, and can vouch that she does her duty

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The proprietor of the Rendezvous Restaurant, Dean Street, Shaftesbury Avenue, London, W.C., wishes us to state that the unsalubrious restaurant in Soho to which "Waiter" referred is not his establishment. This we have pleasure in doing—in fact, no one acquainted with Mr. Gallini's establishment could imagine that "Waiter's" remarks applied to it.

"MAKING THE CAP FIT."

We are pleased to see that many readers have cleverly solved this puzzle. We, of course, have not offered a prize for doing it—its accomplishment, like virtue, being its own reward. The publisher will, however, be very happy to forward a further supply of the ingenious little device upon receipt of a stamped addressed envelope.

THE PRUDENTIAL AND ITS AGENTS.

HARSH TREATMENT DRIVES MANY TO FRAUD AND SUICIDE.

And now to turn once in a way from the swindled policy-holder to the agent who commits the frauds. Whilst it must be admitted that the conduct of these agents in shrinking from no misstatement that may induce the poor and ignorant to take out policies in the Prudential is very reprehensible, it must not be forgotten that they are terribly tempted. Language of denunciation comes to the lips when the tale is told of some agent who has been a party to a fraud, but let it not be forgotten that oftener than not the miserable conditions of his service with this company, with its 80 millions of assets, go far to explain, though they cannot justify, his conduct. Let us glance at a couple of cases reported during the last few days—one from Barrow, the other from Whitby.

On November 12th, Mr. Coroner Pool held an inquest in the Ainsley Street Schoolroom on the body of Thomas Smith, aged 69, formerly an insurance agent in the employment of the Prudential, who cut his throat. It was stated by one of the witnesses, the adopted daughter of the deceased, that Smith was miserable and worried very much about the fact that he thought his "book" was going to be taken from him, and nothing given him for it. He was dependent upon his insurance agency for a living.

In the other case, John Thomas Green, an insurance agent, pleaded guilty to forging an agreement to accept £25 as a loan on a policy of £100 on the life of George Herbert Longsdale. The offence was admitted, but in mitigation of punishment the prisoner's counsel, Mr. Willoughby Jardine, made the following statement:—

"Prisoner started as an agent for an insurance company and with a debit of £6. He had to collect £6 to meet his premiums, and from the first week he only collected £2 10s. The Superintendent told him the right course was to enter up the book and to make up the deficiencies from the next week's takings. Counsel went on to relate that the prisoner never succeeded in collecting the full moneys, and, consequently, fell into arrears which he endeavoured to make up by sacrificing his salary and commission. The company would not permit the prisoner to allow the policies to lapse, and ultimately he was dismissed. As a result of his falling into arrears the prisoner committed the offence."

Mr. Justice Horridge, in sentencing the prisoner, was eloquent upon his "wicked offence." We suppose that all offences are wicked, and we are not going to defend the action of this wretched man in committing forgery. But what a miserable system it is, this system of industrial assurance, which swindles tens of thousands of the poor and ignorant by inducing them to take out and to pay upon worthless policies, and employs thousands of men to carry out this detestable work upon conditions that do not give them a living wage!

Our many readers who are pupils of the Pelman School of Memory will be interested to learn that the school has received permission from the King to present to the Prince of Wales a set of the lessons used in conducting pupils through the course.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9th.

On this date will be published the magnificent combined Christmas Number of JOHN BULL and MRS. BULL, entitled

"JOHN AND MARY,"

PRICE TWOPENCE.

Our readers will need no recommendation of this colossal issue, profusely illustrated, and full of seasonable stories, articles, verse, etc., etc.

THE STATE INSURANCE SCHEME.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE'S ERRORS—NO CASE FOR HIS BILL—FRIENDLY SOCIETIES AND TRADE UNIONS BETRAYED BY LEADERS.

By T. Good.

Mr. Lloyd George goes from bad to worse—his Insurance scheme, in spite of amendments and alterations, gets no better. The man is labouring under great delusions, and his scheme, therefore, is based upon huge fallacies. Unfortunately, most of those gentlemen whose special duty it is to lead, warn and advise the working classes—the heads of the friendly societies, the officials of the trade unions and the members of the Labour Party—have either not devoted sufficient attention to the primary principles and ultimate effects of this compulsory scheme to enable them to exercise sound judgment and give a wise lead to their followers, or they are deliberately fishing for the fat jobs this scheme will provide. When the Labour Exchanges Bill was before the House of Commons it would have been roughly handled by the Labour Party had it not been for the fact—yes, *fact*—that members of that Party were touting for official positions. Not many of them attained their object, it is true; but the effort was made. Is history now repeating itself?

Are the Workers being Betrayed?

Are our friendly society and trade union leaders selling their members into bondage in the hope that they (the leaders) will not be overlooked when the big new army of State Insurance commissioners, inspectors, referees and umpires is being organised? It looks like it, for surely these leaders must know that a compulsory scheme, embracing not merely those who are unable or unwilling to make provision for themselves, but also those who do make such provision through voluntary societies, cannot be set up without damaging the societies. No sooner will this scheme be established—if it is established—than our workmen will drop out of their societies, unions, and clubs by the million. And this brings us to one of the big fallacies upon which Mr. Lloyd George has founded his scheme. Indeed, it brings us to two big fallacies to which special attention must be directed.

When introducing his Bill Mr. Lloyd George said that half our workers were unprovided for in the event of sickness. He made a similar statement in his explanatory speech at Birmingham. In his more recent speech of brag, bounce and bunkum at the Tabernacle, Mr. George asserted that two-thirds of our workers—"ten million persons of the industrial class"—were unprovided for, and he declares that "at the present moment the entire burden of sickness amongst the industrial population falls on the shoulders of Labour." Upon this idea, or these twin ideas, is based the major part of this Insurance scheme, which is designed to give assistance in case of sickness. If Mr. Lloyd George's information is correct—if his statements are true—then there is some justification for some such scheme as this. But what are the facts?

Temporary Sickness Already Well Provided for.

Now, suppose we admit that where provision against sickness has not been made voluntarily, it ought to be made compulsorily—or, in other words, that those workers who cannot make provision on their own account, unaided, should be assisted by the State to do so—is that any reason or excuse why the millions who have made provision, through societies or otherwise, should be brought into this scheme, whether they like it or not, literally conscripted, the funds and management of their societies interfered with, placed under the heels of bureaucrats, robbed of all benefits they may have for years subscribed for over and above two-thirds of their wages, and be reduced to something very like pauperism? Under this scheme the well-paid mechanic, in the prime of life, a member of a couple of friendly societies and a trade union, is to have his wages docked at the pay office; his societies are to be converted into State outdoor relief agencies; his benefits are to be cut down, limited, and circumscribed; his financial liberties, thrift habits, and social independence are to be placed at the whim and will of Whitehall wiseacres; while the poor old 65 to 70 years of age casual labourer, the helpless widow and the destitute orphan, are left to the tender mercies of the guardians of the poor rates.

As a matter of hard, indisputable fact, there is no demand, there is no case, and there is no room for the greater part of this scheme. Mr. George is absolutely wrong when he assumes that 10,000,000 of our workers are unprovided for in case of sickness. He is equally wrong when he says the entire burden of sickness falls on Labour. Briefly, the facts are these: Half our workmen are members of friendly societies, granting both sick and death benefits. Nearly the whole of the other half are members of sick clubs of some kind. We have a multitude of railwaymen's benevolent societies, miners' relief societies, workshop, factory and village clubs. Over and above these it is a common custom to make collections for the sick. Then, again, our country is studded with hospitals and convalescent homes, medical dispensaries, and so forth, to say nothing of the workhouse infirmaries and relief. For practically every worker, and even loafer, there is temporary sickness provision already. There may be room for improvement; but so thoroughly is the ground of sickness covered that there has never been so much as the shadow of a popular agitation, movement, or demand for compulsory insurance against sickness. Yet this is made the chief part of a scheme introduced by a so-called democratic statesman. There is room for, and there is a case for, State provision in case of permanent invalidity, of old age, both natural and premature, and there is a crying need for compulsory insurance against ordinary unemployment; but the field of temporary sickness provision has long since been well covered, and is now splendidly cultivated, by a network of democratic, well-managed, economically conducted, and elevating societies and clubs, many of which will receive their death-blow, and the whole of which will have their best characteristics destroyed if the State enters the field in the manner now proposed.

Lloyd George's Two Fallacies.

It cannot be too often repeated, or too strongly insisted, that these twin ideas of Mr. Lloyd George—the idea that many millions of the workers are unprovided for in case of sickness, and the idea that the entire burden of sickness falls upon the shoulders of Labour—are quite unfounded. Very few indeed of our workers are altogether uninsured against sickness, and these few are mostly confined to the very classes which Lloyd George leaves out of his scheme; while the statement about the entire burden falling upon Labour is too untrue to be pardonable. And herein lies an important point. Capital to-day bears a very considerable portion of the sickness burden, but if Mr. George's Bill passes capital will cease to do so, and the workers will then, in fact, have to bear not only practically the whole burden of sickness, but they will have to pay the major portion of the taxes to maintain the new army of State Insurance parasites. To-day, on top of our friendly societies and sick clubs, maintained entirely by the workers, we have thousands of workshop clubs liberally supported by our employers. These clubs, besides paying sick benefit, mostly equal to the benefit proposed by the Lloyd George scheme, have Christmas "share-outs," which stand their members in good stead.

The Old "Purse Trick."

Again, our employers contribute handsomely to hospitals and medical charities. Not only so, but hundreds of thousands of clerks, shop assistants, farm labourers, gardeners, women workers and others are paid full wages when sick. The wages paid to sick workers, the contributions of employers to sick clubs and hospitals, in the aggregate, must amount to a good few millions per annum. Mr. Lloyd George takes no account of this. Like a vulgar cheap-jack he appeals for the support of the mob with the cry that he is offering "ninepence for fourpence." But the workers will get less than ninepence, and they will pay far more than fourpence. Mr. George's scheme, if it passes, will result in the great bulk of our employers ceasing to pay wages to sick workers, and dropping, or curtailing, their contributions to workshop clubs and medical charities. This will be a dead loss to the workers. Moreover, management expenses—the salaries of the new officials—must be allowed for, and the workers will have to contribute their share on this account. To-day, in respect of sickness benefits and medical attendance, the average workman gets far more than he pays for. What more can he *hope* for under the Lloyd George scheme? What is he likely to *get* I may venture to indicate in a future article.

BOXTED FARM COLONY.

MORE SALVATION ARMY SWEATING.

With money provided by the late Mr. Herring, the Salvation Army have been running a colony of "small-holders" at Boxted, near Colchester, and, like every other undertaking of the "Army," it is a failure. There is open war on the estate between the tenants and the management. A few days ago, the malcontents held a public meeting in Colchester, and there were some lively scenes.

One of the speakers was a man named Gardiner. He stated that before joining the Colony he was promised that he would not lose his respectability. The conditions of work were far from agreeable. He had seven children under the age of fourteen. "When we took over these small-holdings," he said, "these were the conditions." Then he read, from a typewritten paper, as follows:—

> Upon each holding a house, consisting of five rooms and scullery is built, with tool-shed, fowl-house, and pig-sty. About one acre of each holding will also be planted with fruit trees. . . . The holdings will vary in size from 3½ to 5½ acres. . . . The arrangements provide for approved settlers being supplied with seeds, manures, etc., for the first year, and some monetary assistance will also be given when it is absolutely needed. . . Fowls and pigs will also be provided if required, but this will be upon the recommendation of the management. . . . If possible, some part of the holdings will be under crop at the time of entry, and all land will be deeply and well ploughed before the tenant enters in. . . The tenant to pay such rent as he may be able during the first year, but in the second and third years it is expected that full rent will be possible and paid. . . . The rental will include a charge for management, and also a payment for sinking or extinction fund. . . . Every settler will be a tenant at will for three years, at the end of which period he will, if finally approved, exchange his agreement for a lease, continuing the 6 per cent. rental for 33 years, at the end of which period the tenant is possessed of the holding, with house and all trees, etc., on lease for 999 years, at a few shillings per acre. . . . A superintendent will be engaged to advise and instruct holders as to the best systems of cultivation, and in order to dispose of the produce to the best advantage, a wide-reaching scheme of co-operative collection and sale will be established, under which the produce will be carefully graded, packed and sold.

All this sounds very nice. But what are the facts?

The land is poor and unsuited for market gardens. What fruit trees have been planted, have been planted by the small-holders themselves. Although the prospectus stated that settlers would be tenants at will for three years, many of them had to leave at the end of one year. Mr. Gardiner states that he worked 15 to 18 hours a day.

As to the co-operation that was talked about, no tenant has had a voice in the management and the only Committee meeting was merely to get the rules passed—since then the whole system of buying and selling has been in the hands of one man. The small-holders came on the colony to be independent men, and to make themselves successful by their own efforts. When they started every man did his best, and so did their wives and children also after they came from school. As the matter stands at present, these small-holders are unable to pay their rent, so some 27 of them were told to "clear out" or remain as labourers for the princely wage of 14s. a week. Many of these men had thrown up steady jobs at more than twice that wage, after listening to the voice of the Salvation Army charmer expatiating on the ideal state they would live in when back on the land! As a matter of fact, the definite promise notwithstanding, they have lost their social status and have been ruined.

At the close of the men's meeting, the following resolutions were carried unanimously:—

"Having heard the evidence of various small-holders as to the *management* of the Boxted scheme by the Salvation Army, this meeting considers that evidence warrants a full *public* enquiry; and furthermore demands that steps should be taken to see that the Salvation Army officers concerned do *not evade* their responsibilities to *recompense* the men who have left their homes and their employment, and having been deceived by *false promises*, have *not* been given full opportunity to justify the possibilities of the scheme."

We shall follow developments with interest.

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—CLXX.

A FAMILY ON WHOM AFFLICTION HAS FALLEN HEAVILY.

Our attention has been directed to what seems to us a very woeful case. The man, who is the central figure in the tragedy—for it is no less—last year underwent two operations for fistula in St. Mark's Hospital. Three months ago cancer showed itself in his tongue, and the disease spread so rapidly that a fortnight ago he had to go into the hospital as an in-patient. The operation was successful, but last week he had an epileptic fit from which he died. About a year ago his wife was struck by lightning. She escaped serious injury, but her unborn child was killed and had to be taken from her. They then lost their eldest boy, but the widow remains with three small children, aged respectively 2, 5, and 7.

These poor people have had nothing but illness and suffering during the whole of their married life; even the three remaining children have been down with diphtheria. The father was never able to keep a situation long owing to rheumatic gout, as well as epileptic fits. They have been stranded time and again, and have had their goods and chattels thrown into the street two or three times, and once lost them altogether. They then had to get on the hire system a few "sticks," which are not paid for yet. Many and many a day they have had nothing to eat but dry bread. The widow has no relatives who could help her. Her father is dead, her mother is in receipt of an old age pension. Her married sister has done what she could, but that was very little. The brother has been out of work for many months and is utterly unable to assist. In his letter to us in which he narrates the circumstances we have described above, and have since verified, he says:—

> I have been out of work for some months and am in debt, including £5 for rent, so you will guess my feelings as a human being at being powerless to help my sister in her extremity. I do not worry about myself. I have good health. It is my sister I am pleading for. Surely if ever woman has been heavily hit it is she.

We agree. We have made careful enquiries into this distressing case, and we find that all the woman could do she has done both as regards her husband, her children, and her home. Miserable as that home is, it is clean, and it was not with the woman's consent that her brother has written to us, for she shrinks from the idea of charity. If any of our readers will help her with a little money, so that she may have at least bread for her children and herself for a few weeks, during which time she might hope to get some sort of employment, it would be a very real kindness.

We have received the following amounts, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named:—

CLXIII.—"Randfontein," 5s.

CLXVI.—P. H., 5s.

CLXVII.—A. B., 5s.; A. D., 5s.; E. L. L., £5.

CLXVIII.—F. D. H., 20s.; T. G. J., 5s.; A. A. P., 2s.; B. B. B., 5s.; E. W., 5s.; D. C., 2s.; K. & G., 1s.; W. M. R., 10s.; "Thankful," 5s.; "Doowmas," 5s.; M., 10s.; G. F., 2s. 6d.; S. E. R., 10s.; "Peter," 2s.; A. B., 5s.; A. D., 5s.; "Walter," 5s.; "Anonymous," 1s.; "Jack and Morrie," 2s.; W. H. S., 2s. 6d.; T. B., 6d.; A. A., 5s.

CLXIX.—C. E. J. P. and H. P., 5s. 6d.; E. W. S., 1s. 6d.; P. I. P., 2s. 6d.; "Billy," 2s. 6d.; "A Neighbour," 5s.; "Coll," 9d.; D. J., 2s. 6d.; N. R., 2s. 6d.; B. S., 1s.; T. B., 6d.; "Sympathetic," 1s.

HUMAN DOCUMENT CLXVII.—In our issue of November 18, we mentioned the offer of a reader to subscribe £2 per annum to the maintenance of the poor woman whose case was dealt with in the Document if another 24 of our readers would subscribe a like sum. In response four other readers have intimated their willingness to subscribe £2 per annum. But we must have more promises if the good work is to be completed, and this most deserving woman is to have life made a little easier for her. Will some more readers come forward?

"BRAININE"

The only Cure for "Nerves" and Worry

See advt. page 789.

THE NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION.

THE TRUTH OF OUR INDICTMENTS PROVED.

When we sent our Special Commissioner to make an investigation into the management of the National Lifeboat Institution we did so only after repeated requests from many readers. That he has done his work justly and fearlessly admits of no doubt.

The Lifeboat Institution has met our charges in the following manner. The Secretary issued a circular letter, consisting of six folios, to all the branch secretaries. It was meant to be a confidential document, but to show how the branch secretaries view the situation, a considerable number of copies of this circular letter reached us within twenty-four hours of its leaving headquarters. We quote from the circular :—

> The attention of the Committee of Management has been drawn to three articles in a publication named JOHN BULL, in which an attack is made on the Institution. So far as they themselves are concerned, the Committee of Management have no intention of entering into a public defence of their conduct in response to these articles, but it has been represented to them that persons who have either not the time or not the disposition to examine and carefully consider the facts of the case are thrown into doubt by the articles, and are looking to the Hon. Secretaries of the Institution for explanations. The Committee of Management have, therefore, had the following statements drawn up to aid Hon. Secretaries and Branch Committees in answering enquiries of those who come to them in search of facts.

As we have stated, the circular extends to six folios. In parallel columns are printed our indictments and the Institution's answers. Let us compare the conflicting statements on the points principally in dispute. Merely as an illustration we give a couple of the most serious strictures and the Institution's answers. In our articles we quoted from the Annual Report, and made a comparison between the gratuity of the late Secretary, the gratuity of £68 to the widow of John Davison, coxswain superintendent, and the gratuity of £200 to the widow and invalid daughter of Robert Ames, assistant coxswain of the Palling Lifeboat, whose death was caused by exposures on service. The widow of a man who for twenty-five years sat in his armchair, and who was in receipt of a good salary, gets £1,200. Another widow—this time of a man who has practically given his services for a period of thirty years—is granted the magnificent sum of £68; while yet another widow—of a man who admittedly died on Lifeboat service—is granted £200!

> The Secretary of the Institution gives the whole of his time to the Service, whilst coxswains and the rest of the crew pursue an occupation of their own as boatmen, or fishermen, or otherwise. They are not the servants of the Institution in the sense that the Secretary is, in that they do not render continuous or permanent service.

Our Commissioner, shown the above answer, simply said: "In every case where appeals go out from the National Lifeboat Institution for funds, it is particularly emphasised that the money is required for saving life at sea. I don't wish to be personal, but what does the present holder of the post know of either lifeboat or life-saving? I say, emphatically, nothing. Moreover, I can prove it. That he is a good organiser and 'money-getter' may be admitted: and that is a business in itself. I know at least four men who as 'catchy' writers for quack doctors are earning at least £1,000 a year, and they are worth it to their employers. But can it be said that, however good a 'money-getter' the Secretary of the Lifeboat Institution may be, the Committee are justified in paying him £1,000 a year out of money contributed for life-saving? I don't blame the Secretary for drawing his good salary; but I do blame the Committee for squandering charitable funds quite apart from the object for which the money was subscribed. And what I do protest against is, collecting money from the public for life-saving and paying it away to an expert advertisement writer."

The circular goes on :—

> "An Appeal for an Octogenarian Hero": in which it is suggested that the Institution has disregarded the claim of John Stock—a man who was a member of the Lifeboat Crew at Ramsgate.

And the following is the best answer that the Secretary of the Institution can give as to why this veteran, who was instrumental in the saving of over 200 lives, should die in the gutter.

> The case of John Stock was brought before the Committee of Management, and, after careful local enquiry, was fully considered, but they were not of opinion that it was a case calling for exceptional treatment.

No, of course not. Poor Stock is one of the squeezed lemons. He can no longer take his seat in the boat and handle an oar. Neither is he of any use to bring in subscriptions. He should get into a quiet corner and die, for the National Lifeboat Institution have no further need of his services.

It will be remembered that our Commissioner managed to get advance notice of a lifeboat inspection launch at Broadstairs. We again quote from the circular :—

> The writer describes an exercise launch at Broadstairs, and states that the boat stuck in the toe of the slipway.

Now note the Institution's answer :—

> The Committee are aware that, notwithstanding considerable expenditure on improvements, there is some difficulty in launching the boat at Broadstairs at unusually low tides, owing to the silting up of sand at the top of the slipway. It is not yet clear what course will be best in the circumstances, and the matter is still under consideration. The slipway has never failed on an occasion of service.

Our Commissioner, confronted with the reply, states that he was assured by some of the men that small row-boats have gone out to wrecks at times when the Broadstairs boat could not be launched.

The next question is one affecting the Lifeboat Saturday Fund. In our articles it was stated: "it would be interesting to have particulars of the distribution of £800." The following is the reply of the Institution :—

> The gratuities in question were given to certain salaried officials of the Lifeboat Saturday Fund on loss of office.

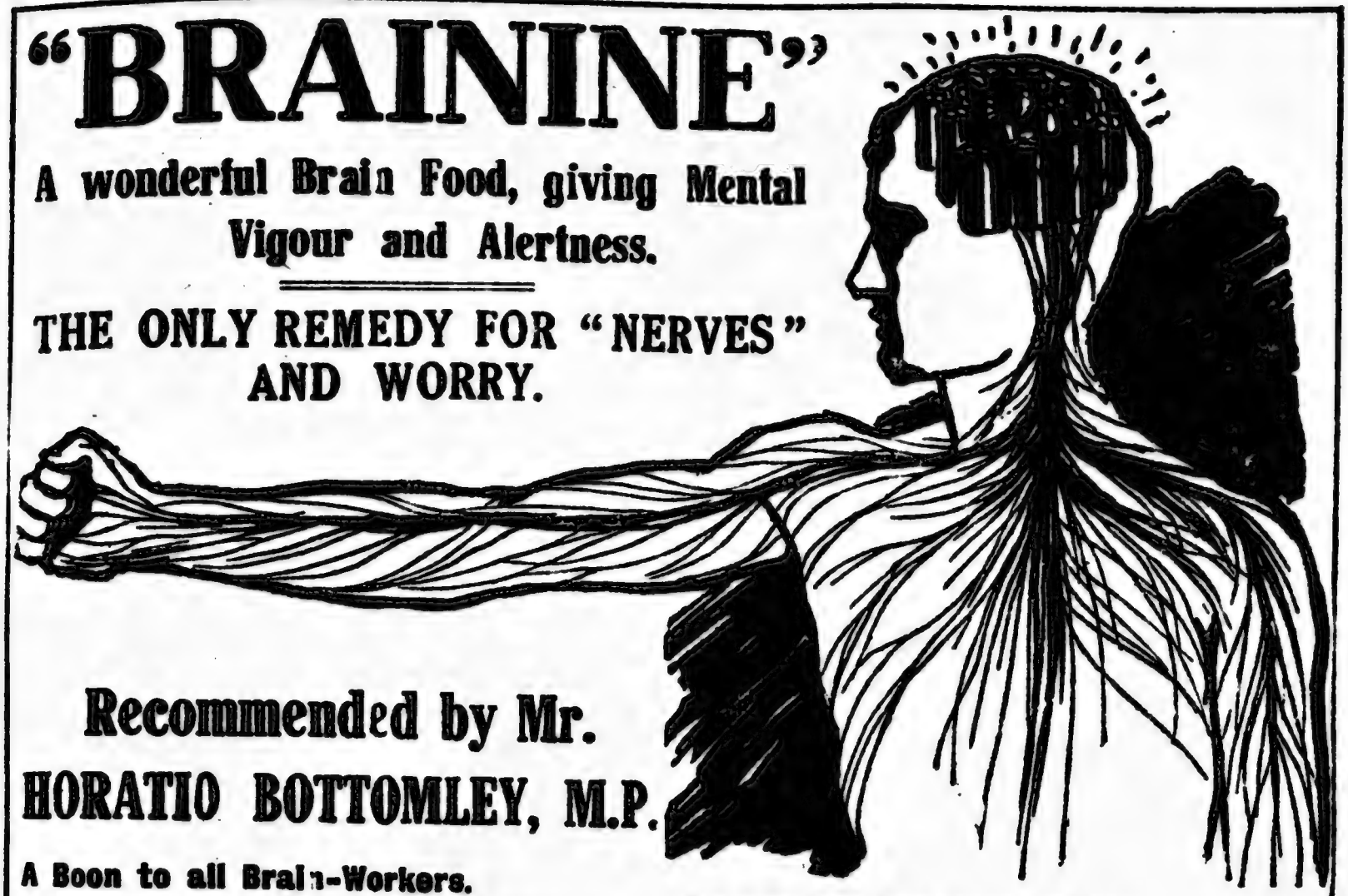
So, £800 as compensation for loss of office! Truly there are some nice fat jobs going in these institutions! Space will not admit of the publication of further comment on our article by the National Lifeboat Institution, but we would advise our readers to write to the Secretary, 22, Charing Cross Road, London, W.C., and obtain a copy for themselves. It is worth reading, if only as an example of what may be attempted to account for wanton waste of charitable public money. No wonder the Institution only issued this circular to its branch secretaries. Some of these are already writing letters to their local papers, and endeavouring to explain matters away, but they will find it rather difficult. One Hon. Secretary, writing to the *Pontypridd Observer*, states: "If any doubt has arisen in the minds of your readers concerning the good management of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution as the result of recent newspaper attacks—attacks which are unfounded—I shall be pleased to supply any enquirer with the true facts."

In conclusion, we affirm that the National Lifeboat Institution is grossly mismanaged, and that the time has arrived for a full public enquiry. In the articles that have gone before, we have by no means exhausted our information, but we have, undoubtedly, given to the public, and also the Institution officials themselves, food for reflection.

"BRAININE"

A wonderful Brain Food, giving Mental Vigour and Alertness.

THE ONLY REMEDY FOR "NERVES" AND WORRY.



Recommended by Mr. HORATIO BOTTOMLEY, M.P.

A Boon to all Brain-Workers.

This is no "quack medicine." It is the preparation of a famous Physician, based upon years of special study of the human brain. Its effect is to stimulate the mental faculties, and by adding to the quantity of "grey matter," to create a wonderful mental alertness and power of sustained effort and endurance.

There are many preparations for the stimulation of the nervous system, but they all ignore the vital fact that the controlling, primary force of all mental activity is THE BRAIN. The Brain is the Battery and the nerves are but the electric wires of the body. That is where all so-called nerve tonics fail. *Unless the Battery is kept fully charged, the current must give out.*

Brainine Goes Straight to the Brain.

No man living has achieved greater feats of mental endurance than

Mr. Horatio Bottomley, M.P.

However much people may differ from his views, the unanimous verdict is—

"What a Brain!"

Well, this is what Mr. Bottomley says:—

"You may certainly give me as a reference as to the remarkable qualities of BRAININE. *Most of my clerks now take it regularly, as well as myself—and I think we get through more work than any other office in London,* AND ARE NEVER TIRED. *Why don't you advertise it?"*

That is how we came to advertise. Hitherto, our sales have been effected by purely private means. Now we are taking a special factory for the manufacture of Brainine—and we hope that before long it will be on sale in every chemist's shop in the Kingdom.

BRAININE is perfectly harmless and free from poison. It may be taken by the strong and the delicate alike, and by persons of either sex. *It is of special value to clerks, and all persons having to deal with figures*; whilst one pellet taken half-an-hour before cross-examination will enable a witness to hold his own with the most brilliant counsel at the Bar—even though he may also have taken one!

Brainine Goes Straight to the Brain.

In the past, the whole medical profession has been at sea in regard to the most prevalent complaint of the twentieth century—"*Nerves.*"

They have treated the *Nerves*—that is to say, the electric wires—instead of the *Brain*—that is to say, the BATTERY. That has been the big mistake.

It may be taken for granted that with the ever-increasing rush and bustle of modern life, "Nerves"—lassitude, irritability, "worry"—will become an ever-growing complaint. The dra n on the Brain is twenty times greater to-day than it was fifty years ago; and if it is to stand the strain, THE BATTERY MUST BE RECHARGED FROM TIME TO TIME.

THAT is the great virtue of BRAININE.

Special Offer to "JOHN BULL" Readers.

BRAININE is sold in boxes at 1s. 1½d. But in order to introduce it to the notice of JOHN BULL readers, a sample box will be sent, to any address in the United Kingdom, *post free*, for Ninepence, provided the following coupon is filled up.

COUPON.

Please send me a Sample box of Brainine as advertised in "John Bull," in respect of which I enclose Ninepence.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Please write distinctly.

The above coupon must be posted, together with stamps or postal order and stamps to the value of Ninepence—Postal orders to be crossed "& Co."—to THE BRAININE COMPANY 23, FLEET STREET, LONDON, E.C.

DUBLIN AND SUNDAY PAPERS.

By F. Sheehy Skeffington.

In Ireland we are suffering at present from one of our periodic fits of moral indignation—what we call "unctuous rectitude," or, more bluntly, hypocrisy, when it emanates from the English Nonconformist Conscience. We are engaged in a campaign against "immoral literature"—which, being interpreted, is found to mean the *Sunday Chronicle* and other English Sunday papers. The campaign, which has just spread to Dublin, began in Limerick—truly a fitting starting-point. The other day, I heard a man, who knows Limerick well, say: "Not in the whole of Western Europe is there a community of 30,000 human beings more vacuous in mind than the city of Limerick." Naturally the clergy find this vacuity of mind very convenient, and are anxious not to have it disturbed.

There is hardly a reactionary movement of recent times in Ireland that cannot be traced to the Most Reverend Edward Thomas O'Dwyer, Bishop of Limerick. It was "Eddie O'D.," as some of his flock irreverently style him, who started the campaign against the Jews in Limerick seven years ago—the only occasion in history on which Anti-Semitism raised its ugly head in Ireland. It was he who led the opposition to giving Irish women students equal advantages with men in the newly-established National University of Ireland. It was one of his pet priests who distinguished himself by preventing the foundation of a free public library in his district and thereby effectively checked the spread of libraries, with their concomitant dangerous habit of thinking. It was his loudest gramophone, the Very Reverend Andrew Murphy, who recently treated a Dublin audience to a dissertation on the evils of democracy, and held up the most absolute theocratic system as the ideal of government. So, when a Limerick mob terrorised newsagents into refusing to sell Sunday papers, and then seized bundles of the papers (other people's property) in open defiance of the Decalogue, and burnt them publicly amid wild enthusiasm, nobody was surprised to learn that the "Vigilance Committee" which prompted this intimidation had the full approval and sanction of "Eddie O'D."

However, nobody in Ireland minds the Bishop of Limerick very much. We know him and his tantrums too well; and we don't think it is quite accidental that he starts, or connives at, a row of this kind on the eve of Home Rule. But Dr. Walsh, Archbishop of Dublin, is generally regarded as the ablest and most fair-minded member of the Irish Catholic episcopacy. It was, therefore, somewhat of a surprise to find that, when the Limerick example induced emulation in Dublin, the Jesuit Chairman of the Dublin "Vigilance Committee" was able to state that the movement had the cordial approval of the Archbishop. Public opinion is not yet satisfied that His Grace will countenance the repetition in Dublin of such scenes.

Zeal for purity of morals is, of course, the ostensible motive of the new crusade; the Sunday papers publish too many Divorce Court reports. But when a speaker at a Sunday meeting ventured to refer directly to the state of O'Connell Street at night, the Chairman promptly pulled him up; that was outside the scope of the meeting. Of course it was. It would never do to discuss a subject which might lead to awkward inquiries as to what the clergy had done to stop the avenues to immorality by raising the social and economic status of women. Stop people from talking or writing about immorality, by all means; but to get to the root of the evil is another matter. It is easier to cloak it and ignore its existence.

In Dublin, as in Limerick, pressure on the newsagents is the first step in the clerical campaign. Newsagents in every parish are to be canvassed and asked "to discontinue the supply of this stuff"; then, as one speaker put it (a layman this time), "a list of the sheep and the goats" is to be "nailed to the door of the church in each parish, with a request that nobody should buy anything in these newsagents' shops." One priest told of action that had already been taken against a recalcitrant newsagent. The man had pleaded that he must live. "He is now out of the trade," said the reverend gentleman, amid applause, "and has to get his living without it."

As a Nationalist, I trust the Dublin newsagents will rise to the occasion. The clerical attack on their independence places them in the foremost fighting line of freedom.

YE MARY-JANES OF ENGLAND.

By Gunby Hadath.

Ye Mary-Janes of England
Who sweep our native hearths!
Whose fires have warmed, a thousand years,
The water for our baths!
Your brooms and brushes raise to-day
Against another foe;
And cry for reason *why*
The thre'pennies should flow!
For the sticky stamps must be licked on,
And the thre'pennies must flow!

The phantoms of your forbears
In every kitchen thrill—
For they drew their wage when they were sick;
Their mistress paid the bill.
Wherever English generals sit
There outraged bosoms glow;
As ye cry for reason *why*
The thre'pennies should flow!
For the sticky stamps must be licked on,
And the thre'pennies must flow!

The cook "won't have no stamp-book"!
The housemaid "drats their sauce"!
The tweeny-maid thinks laws like this
"Don't give a gal no chawnce"!
With such *refreshing fruits* to cull
They tear their hair below;
As they cry, "Why, O *why*,
The thre'pennies should flow?"
O, the sticky stamps must be licked on,
And the thre'pennies must flow!

The Mary-Janes of England
Shall yet terrific stand;
Till George's troubled reign is done,
And the peace is in our land.
Then, then, ye warrior-generals,
Your trumpet we will blow;
Great the fame of your name
When the Clause has had to go!
When the sticky stamps won't be licked on!
And the *sixpennies* won't flow!

"REGISTRATION OF PASSENGERS' LUGGAGE."

WHO IS LIABLE TO MAKE COMPENSATION?

From some interesting correspondence in regard to our recent paragraph under this heading, we make the following extract:—

> The Brighton Railway are, I believe, in partnership with the Western of France line, as far as the Continental traffic is concerned, and I understand that when a claim is made for loss or damage which cannot be located, the indemnity paid is borne by both companies *pro rata* to mileage. As a matter of fact, the Continental time-tables bracket the names of the two concerns, and through rates for passengers and goods are not a combination of local charges but are special rates. Even if the interests are not in common, the L.B. & S.C. Railway surely act as agents for the French line, and in that capacity are liable for contracts signed in their name.
>
> The Brighton Company decline responsibility when luggage is registered to stations *beyond* Paris, or to any station *not* on the Western of France system, but claimants can always send in to the last carrier their bills for delay, loss or damage, as he, according to the law of France, is liable, and has to fight it out with the preceding ones, subject, of course, to the owners of the luggage having protested, in writing, against loss or damage at the time they accepted delivery. In the case of delay, it is not even necessary to protest at that time, as proof can always be obtained by documentary evidence.
>
> What is wanted in England is a league to combat abuses by the big companies, the same as used to exist in France, and which is probably still in being there. A small fee per annum is paid, and in return are received publications concerning the rights of the public in the matter of transport, whilst for a mere trifle the best legal advice is given by letter. But, of course, you can go to law in France without being ruined.

"THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE" ON SANDOW'S COCOA.

"BETTER THAN THE FINEST CHOCOLATE!"

UNBOUNDED ENTHUSIASM AND DELIGHT EXPRESSED IN THOUSANDS OF LETTERS TO MR. SANDOW.

The new "HEALTH AND STRENGTH COCOA" has swept into instant popularity on an irresistible tide of public favour.

At his well-known Health Institute Mr. Sandow is overwhelmed by appreciative letters which are addressed to him daily by delighted users of his super-developed "drink-diet" Cocoa.

Nothing equalling this public enthusiasm has been known in recent years, and the fact is all the more impressive as a large proportion of these letters comes from people who previously were not cocoa-drinkers, but whose objections to ordinary cocoa have been conquered by the easy digestibility, strengthening properties, and irresistible attractiveness of flavour in SANDOW'S COCOA.

Each writer praises the Cocoa from his or her own point of view. A very large number speak of the flavour as being better than the finest chocolate. The sum-total of their testimony establishes beyond doubt that every claim that has been advanced on behalf of the new Health and Strength Cocoa has been justified "up to the hilt."

Those readers of JOHN BULL who have already experienced the splendid health benefits of this remarkable liquid food will readily understand the feelings of gratification which prompted these personal letters to Mr. Sandow. For the benefit, however, of those who have not yet made the acquaintance of this vitalising Cocoa a few of the letters are reproduced hereunder.

A number of these expressions of opinion proceed from those who are in the best possible position to judge of the merits of the new cocoa, having been regular cocoa-drinkers for years.

Following these come several striking letters from those who hitherto were not cocoa drinkers.

FROM A COCOA DRINKER OF 76

"Felt much better since drinking the Cocoa."

"I feel I must write and tell you how much good your Cocoa has done me. I take it twice a day, and have felt very much better than I was before. Indeed, I am getting quite strong, and I was sure if your Cocoa will do me good at my age, I'm sure it will other people. I was 76 years old last April, and am taking the old age pension, but Sandow's Cocoa has made me feel as if I should like to go into business again, and I have have quite made up my mind to do so if your Cocoa still makes me feel so much better. You can make what use of this you like, and if the public do not believe me, they can come and see for themselves."

FROM A LANCASHIRE RESIDENT.

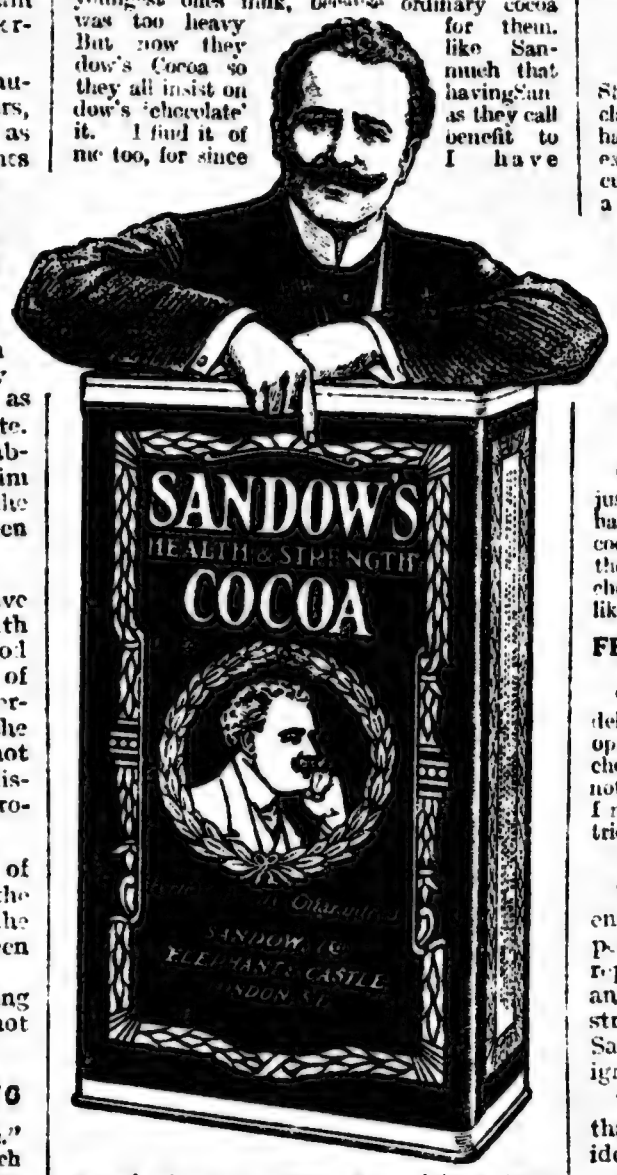
"Did not drink ordinary Cocoa."

"Not being a cocoa drinker, I did not bother about trying your Health and Strength Cocoa, which I expected would have a medicinal flavour. I tasted some at a friend's house, however, and so enjoyed it that I bought a half-pound tin, and have used it regularly for breakfast and supper since. One thing I noticed is that it has cured my insomnia."

FROM A MOTHER OF SIX.

"All want Sandow's Cocoa."

"My children—I have six (three girls and three boys)—all enjoy your Cocoa so much that I feel I must write and tell you. I used to have such a trouble—some wanted tea, others coffee, some cocoa, and I used to give the two youngest ones milk, because ordinary cocoa was too heavy for them. But now they like Sandow's Cocoa so much that having Sandow's 'chocolate' as they call it. I find it of benefit to me too, for since I have started taking it instead of tea, I have been very little troubled with my nerves. I always boil the cocoa, as I find that brings out the flavour better. I write this for the benefit of mothers who have their children's welfare at heart."



FROM A TYPIST

"Very Sustaining."

"You are quite right about the sustaining properties of your Health and Strength Cocoa. I have to hurry off to the office early, and can only find time to swallow a cup of tea or coffee and a piece of bread and butter. I used to feel so empty about 11 o'clock; quite faint, sometimes. Since I took a cup of Sandow's Cocoa instead of tea or coffee, however, I don't get the feeling of emptiness, and can go on quite easily until dinner-time. I think it is awfully cheap for 7½d."

FROM A DOCTOR.

"Pleasure in using it and prescribing it."

"I submit with pleasure my opinion of a sample of Sandow's Cocoa given to me by my friend, Mr. L——. I consider it an excellent preparation, particularly free from excess of fat, and consequently a very digestible beverage It has a delightful aroma, and now it has been introduced to my notice I shall have much pleasure in using it and prescribing it to my patients."

FROM A CLERK'S WIFE.

"Pleased with Solubility and Economy."

"I am very glad to find that your Health and Strength Cocoa is really soluble. So many cocoas claim to be soluble; but yours is the first I have found really so. I also find it, as you say, extremely economical, as I can make more cups from a tin of your cocoa than I can from a tin of any other kind."

FROM A SOUTH COAST TOWN.

"Delicious chocolate flavour."

"Our grocer having sold out, will you please send another tin of your excellent Cocoa, for which I send 7½d.? Now that we have tasted the delicious chocolate flavour of your Cocoa, none of us care about other kinds."

FROM A WORKING MAN.

"Just like chocolate, only better."

"Bravo, Mr. Sandow,—You have again justified the confidence which the British public has in you. I was unable to drink ordinary cocoa, but your Cocoa is simply splendid, and the flavour in particular is extra good, just like chocolate, only better, because it is not bilious like chocolate."

FROM A LONDON HOUSEWIFE.

"Delighted with the flavour."

"I must say that the flavour of your Cocoa delighted me more than I can say. In my opinion it is more delicious than the finest chocolate, and I am sure that even if it had nothing else to recommend it, the flavour would. I never was a regular drinker of cocoa until I tried yours."

These letters are representative of an enormous volume of testimony of independent members of the general public—representing almost every grade of society and every class of worker—and form a striking endorsement of the *merit* of Sandow's Cocoa. No one can afford to ignore their significance.

These opinions should convince you that in the new Cocoa you will find the ideal breakfast and supper beverage.

A healthier body, a stronger brain, steadier nerves, better appetite, sounder sleep, greater vitality and increased vigour—these are but a few of the benefits accruing from its regular use.

Try a ¼-lb. tin of Sandow's Health and Strength Cocoa to-day; the cost is but 7½d. It will place you in possession of the means to prove that Sandow's Cocoa is the most digestible, nutritive, economical and delicious beverage obtainable.

All grocers, chemists, provision dealers, and stores sell Sandow's Health and Strength Cocoa in ¼-lb. tins, 7½d.; ½-lb 1s' 3d.; 1-lb., 2s. 6d. If unable to procure locally, you may obtain it from the Head Office, post free, by sending the necessary amount in P.O. and stamps to Mr. Eugen Sandow, Elephant and Castle, London, S.E.

MEMORY.

By Diogenes.

(Diogenes is our Licensed Crank, and we do not necessarily associate ourselves with any of his views. Taking as his model the most fearless and unconventional of the old philosophers, he will from time to time afford our readers the opportunity of seeing things as he believes his prototype regards them from the Olympian heights.)

From my earliest childhood I have been cursed with a bad memory, the only thing besides gout that I inherited from my father, the rest of his estate being entailed. Both my parents were similarly afflicted, and on their wedding day my mother forgot the hour and my father forgot the church. How they ever ultimately got married passes my comprehension. Jointly and severally they omitted by an oversight to register my birth—an act of neglect that caused a summons to be issued against my father, inviting him to appear in the capacity of protagonist at a Police Court—an invitation of which he forgot to avail himself. Through my parents' lapse of memory I was not vaccinated, and afterwards when I contracted a mild attack of small-pox they were unable to remember the particular disease the doctor had diagnosed, and nursed me devotedly for compound rickets.

With such a strong hereditary taint in my blood it is scarcely surprising that my own memory was none of the best; but when I became old enough to realise the seriousness of the deficiency, I devised a simple means whereby I might assume that characteristic of which Nature had seen fit to deprive me. I accordingly invented an easy system of Mnemonics, by the aid of which I could not fail to remember such things as I was most prone to forget. For example, I could never remember to wind up my watch on retiring to bed; I, therefore, devised the expedient of sewing the nutmeg-grater into my pillow-slip, so that as soon as my head touched the pillow I should receive a reminder. That same evening I forgot, as usual, to wind my watch, but turned out the gas and sprang into bed A second later I was out again, for the mnemonic had found me just behind the ear, though its true function proved a failure, as I quite forgot to remember of what the mnemonic was to remind me. I therefore determined to remove the futile nutmeg-grater in the morning from an uncongenial sphere of labour; but my determination slipped my memory, and the next night I again bounded into bed, my watch still unwound; this time the nutmeg-grater succeeding in endangering the sight of my right eye. Then I suddenly recalled the cause and object of my suffering, and at once got out of bed to fetch the matches. I could not remember where I had put them, so after a barren search that lasted ten minutes (during which I overturned and severely fractured a highly-prized photograph of Beachy Head tastefully framed in sea-shells) I decided to wind my watch in the dark. It was an old-fashioned hunter, and after much fumbling I inserted the key and gave the watch a severe winding.

Next morning, while dressing, I discovered that in the darkness I had painstakingly bored a hole through the dial of my watch and thoroughly dislocated all its intestines. When I shook it, it sounded like a packet of tin-tacks. Its ultimate fate I regret to say I do not remember; it was probably sold to pay its own expenses.

Considering how important a good memory is, it is an astonishing fact that so few people make an effort to cultivate one. "It is the first essential of the successful man," as an advertising pamphlet pithily puts it, and I can quite see the justice of the remark. Let me give you a few instances.

If you were a doctor, it would be a matter of considerable difficulty to accord a satisfactory interview to a patient when you have inadvertently left your trousers underneath the mattress.

Again: a situation calling for the most delicate tact would arise if, when dining-out, you should discover on advancing to greet your host and hostess that you were *in puris naturalibus* from the waist upwards.

A Few Hints.

Such unpleasant *contretemps* as the foregoing can always be averted by a little care. A list of the essential garments might be stuck on your looking-glass, so that you could always check your costume before leaving your dressing-room. Don't begrudge the little extra trouble even if you have a valet, as he is just as liable to forget as your are, and it is up to every man to be a credit to his valet.

Occasionally one hears of people who are unable to remember their own names but this, I think, merely argues indifference. If they would only acquire the habit of repeating their names several times, slowly and thoughtfully, every morning before breakfast I am sure that on demand their nomen and cognomen would trip as blithely off their tongues as the boy off the burning deck. Marking your name on your handkerchief is another excellent device.

Debts are among the things that most easily evade one's memory, most probably owing to the light-heartedness with which they are contracted. It is a good plan, therefore, when borrowing money, to concentrate your attention for a moment upon the amount, halve it, take away the first number you think of, and jot the result down in your note-book. A little thought will show you, more clearly than any words of mine, what an inestimable boon this simple system will convey.

Unless one has a specific gift for recognising faces, they are difficult to remember, and one is often hard put to recall the particular name attaching to a particular face. I know a case in point. A friend of mine named Hubert Hands (of Halifax), on meeting a lady named Mrs. Birch (of Ipswich), mistook her for a gentleman named Cutwater (of Newcastle)—a most regrettable incident. If my friend had only remembered that it is not the coat that proclaims the man, but the trousers, all would have been well; he would probably have retained to this day the warm friendship of Mr. Cutwater (of Newcastle) instead of the bitter enmity of Mrs. Birch (of Ipswich).

To me, the power to recall faces makes no special appeal, for I find that one may spend five seconds in an earnest endeavour to memorise a particularly offensive countenance, and the remainder of one's life in a fruitless effort to forget it.

But this metamorphosis from a bad memory to a good one is a physical problem that all persons thus afflicted should strive to solve, and for the guidance of any such I think that I cannot do better than narrate how I cured myself permanently of my own disability.

Two Illustrations.

When I was a lad of fourteen, I went to hear a famous elocutionist who, rumour said, could recite the whole of Shakespeare's plays without once looking at the book. On the occasion in question he recited "Troilus and Cressida," "Paradise Lost," "Sartor Resartus," and "Curfew shall not ring to-night." This feat so burned itself into my brain that for the next six years I thought constantly of the means of improving my own memory, till at length I received one day through the post a circular headed "I am the man you want," which came from a gentleman who undertook to teach me in twelve lessons, by a system of his own, to memorise anything from the clergyman's text to the Encyclopædia Britannica. Then and there I sought out the Professor, agreed upon terms, and arranged to receive my first lesson the next afternoon Accordingly, I put in an appearance at the hour appointed only to be informed that the Professor was out to lunch but was expected at any moment.

Two hours later the Professor returned. I stated my name, my business with him, and the amount of best Greenwich Mean he had caused me to waste. He was most apologetic, and hoped I would excuse him, as he had completely forgotten the appointment. He put it so nicely that I could not find it in my heart to blame him for the oversight, so we retired to his private room for the first of a series of lessons which proved to be most fascinating.

What his system was, I cannot for the life of me recall, and the things he taught me to remember irrevocably I have long since forgotten. One incident alone stands out.

I had received the last lesson of the course, had warmly thanked and shaken hands with the Professor, and had proceeded on my way home congratulating myself on the powerful memory I had acquired. As I turned my latch-key in my front-door a thought crossed my mind: I had received twelve lessons in memory and had forgotten to pay for them.

"BRAININE."
The only Cure for "Nerves" and Worry.
See advt. page 789.

BALZAC'S BEST NOVELS.

Comp'ete and Unexpurgated.

It will be good news to those who are only beginning to realise that the novels of Balzac, more than those of any other writer, will bear reading and re-reading again and again—to hear that the Caxton Publishing Company is now issuing a small series of his best novels, specially selected by Mr. Clement Shorter, the editor of the *Sphere*. These novels are quite complete and unexpurgated, and this is

What Mr. Clement Shorter says:

"Something has been said of the fact that the publishers advertise that their Balzac is 'unexpurgated.' This is of the utmost importance. The chance that a translator 'betrays' is justified where there is a prurient attempt to modify and alter phrases in the interest of Mrs. Grundy. Nothing can justify that. When face to face with a great classic we want the book as nearly as possible as the author presented it."

Send free inquiry form below.

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—o—

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All lovers of art will welcome the offer of a series of signed artist proofs on the Caxton Publishing Company's famous terms.

The series announced this season include some of the most beautiful plates produced for several years, and any reader interested in art should send the coupon below for a handsomely illustrated prospectus containing full particulars.

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These plates include six especially fine etchings by such well-known artists as R. W. Macbeth, R.A., R.W.S., Francis S. Walker, R.H.A., R.E., Arthur F. Turrill, etc. Among them is "An Old Garden," after Sir John Millais, which is an excellent example of the famous artist in his happiest vein.

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The "Illustrated Chambers's Encyclopædia" is the *only* work that really fulfils this purpose. Its contributors include 1,000 of the most famous men of our time, and between them they deal with every detail of human knowledge.

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Chambers's is the only Encyclopædia that is always up-to-date. It is a standard work, being sold every day, and constantly being reprinted, so that at each reprinting it is possible to correct it and to bring it up to date. For instance, it contains articles by Sir E. Shackleton on the Antarctic, by Major Baden Powell on Aeroplanes and Ballooning, and many other subjects of topical interest at the present moment.

TWO OPINIONS.

A. BONAR LAW, Esq., M.P., writes:

"I have long had in my library the previous edition of Chambers's 'Encyclopædia,' which I have found invaluable. I am sure I shall find the new edition no less interesting and useful."

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A SITUATION AT £200 A YEAR

—o—

Open to Men and Women.

—o—

The Caxton Publishing Company, Ltd., will shortly have a vacancy for a well-trained business man or woman. The commencing salary will be £200 per annum.

It has been decided to throw open this post to competitive examination. The examination is open to all on conditions which will be sent free of charge on application.

An alternative first prize of £100 in cash is offered in the event of the winner being already employed, or for some other reason not desiring to take up a situation which may lead to advancement, and furnish an opportunity to start in the direct line to business success.

THE JUDGES.

The following well-known business men have kindly consented to act:—Sir William Treloar, Bart., Sir George Riddell, Sir Joseph Lyons, T. J. Barratt, Esq. (Chairman A. and F. Pears, Ltd.), John Lawrie, Esq. (Managing Director William Whiteley, Ltd.)

As it is impossible to print the whole of the particulars in the limited space of this announcement, a prospectus of the examination has been prepared indicating the character and scope of the examination, which will be sent post free on receipt of Coupon below.

In all there will be twelve prizes including:—

1st PRIZE

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or

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And nine other substantial prizes.

It is distinctly understood that sending for the prospectus does not commit any reader to the intention of entering the competition.

But you, if engaged in business, will undoubtedly find the examination interesting and informing.

All that is necessary is that you should possess the "Business Encyclopædia," as the questions will be based upon that valuable work.

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.....

OPEN LETTERS, POSTCARDS AND TELEGRAMS.

To Cyril Cobb, Esq., Chairman Education Committee, County Council, London.

MY DEAR SIR,—Why this stupid and wasteful muddle over the appointment of a Principal for the Central School of Arts and Crafts in Southampton Row? I believe I am correct in saying that this post was advertised as long ago as February, at a salary of £1,000 a year, but that your Committee endorsed the opinion of the Visiting Committee of the Central School that none of the candidates who applied for the post was adequately qualified for it. They were good of their sort, but their sort was not good enough, eh? In these circumstances, as you will recollect, the Committee suggested that there should be a joint appointment of a practical artist and a Business administrator. On the ground that this would result in "unending friction," the Council referred back the suggestion, adding instructions to re-advertise the vacancy at an increase of £200 a year salary, namely £1,200. The situation was re-advertised accordingly, and your Committee met to interview certain candidates.

Now the extraordinary result of this procedure, sir, was to disclose the fact that all the candidates selected to appear before your Committee were previous applicants; and thus that the ratepayers were pledged to pay a salary of £1,200 a year to a selected candidate who had been willing to come for £1,000. Being a public body, and having the open purse of the ratepayers of London at their disposal, the Council may apparently fool away money in this manner with impunity, though, if they were carrying on a syndicate of fried fish shops or an aggregation of bun-and-milk emporiums for their own benefit and wanted a managing principal for the same, it is not improbable that they would give him not more, but somewhat less, than he asked.

Of course you may be technically right in ruling that it is too late to reduce the salary now, but is it too late to ask each candidate whether, in the circumstances, he will take the £1,000 a year? Oh, for a Business Council!

JOHN BULL.

Messrs. Chapman and Casson, L.C.C., South Hackney Division.

DEAR CONFRERES,—I observe that you have again distinguished yourselves by supporting the cranks and killjoys of the London County Council, your latest performance being to oppose the recommendation of your own Committee in favour of the granting of a licence to the London Hippodrome. The unhappy feature of your action is that, had you remembered that you represented a broad-minded and democratic constituency and given your votes for justice and commonsense, the scales would have been turned in their favour instead of for the cause of bigotry and cant.

You both voted upon a previous occasion against a licence for the Finsbury Park Empire, although even such men as Messrs. Crooks, Dew, Jesson and Gilbert were for the licence. And in the case of a well-known and popular Hampstead hostelry, you supported an amendment that the licence should be granted only "subject to an undertaking that the arbours around the grounds should be removed."

When on a previous occasion the subject of the Hippodrome licence was brought up, and your Committee had recommended that it should be granted provided drinks were not served in the auditorium, you both voted for an amendment applying the prohibition to the whole of the premises; whilst you, Mr. Chapman, actually voted for a resolution intending to warn London music-hall managers against introducing "Living Statuary" into their programmes.

I have referred to your last election addresses, and fail to find any reference to these votes, or any enunciation of the puritanical principles upon which they are based.

I observe also that you, Mr. Chapman, are Chairman of a local club which could not keep open a week but for the sale of intoxicating refreshments, whilst you, Mr. Casson, are a member of, and a frequent visitor to, the National Liberal Club, to which I have no doubt a similar remark applies.

Do you really think you "represent" South Hackney on the Council?

JOHN BULL.

The Chairman, Colchester Bench of Magistrates.

SIR,—I observe that you recently had before you a man charged with stealing diamonds from a local jeweller. He pleaded guilty, urging, as an extenuating circumstance, that he was under the influence of drink. I seem to have heard that plea before on the part of many a person finding himself in the dock. What, however, I desire to call your special attention to, is the fact that because, according to his solicitor, the prisoner was "a member of a prominent county family and engaged to a young woman of high standing," you allowed his name to be suppressed. I am not surprised that the prosecuting solicitor protested against this action. I am, however, surprised that, knowing the name of the prisoner, the solicitor did not himself make it public.

I further observe that the man was actually set free—and I am wondering what would have happened in the case of some poor devil before you for stealing a loaf of bread. Evidently, drunkenness is, in your opinion, a more extenuating circumstance than starvation. It is obvious that I shall have to keep my eye upon your Bench.

JOHN BULL.

To Provost Leask, Peterhead, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

MY GUID MAN,—It is evident that the financial position of the Corporation Gas Works should be thoroughly overhauled. As it stands, the whole thing looks ugly. The accounts of public undertakings of this character, having regard to the amazing irregularities brought to light and the comments of the Scottish Secretary on the over-stating of the coal stocks for eight years past, ought not to rest under a cloud of suspicion. The Gas Works are a town's undertaking, and the evident determination of a majority of the Council that the facts should not leak out to the public raises the presumption that there is something to be gained for somebody by secrecy and darkness.

At the least, it is clear, my dear Provost, that there has been neither proper management nor adequate supervision. Whose face is being saved? I am surprised, sir, that you should have thrown the weight of your influence on the side of darkness in such a matter, of which I hope the last has not been heard.

JOHN BULL.

To William Moore, Esq., M.P., House of Commons.

DEAR MOORE,—With much regret I hear that, while there is in Ireland a friendly society called the Hibernians, which pledges its members to wade knee deep in the blood of Orangemen, the Orangemen have an oath which consigns every Roman Catholic to hell. It is my impression that the Hibernians will never wade and the Orangemen will never consign. If one is to judge by the speeches of yourself, Carson, Devlin, O'Brien, and Tim, there is going to be more blood and fire in the Home Rule struggle than there is in the Salvation Army, whereas, in truth, there will not be enough of the one to satisfy a leech or enough of the other to incinerate a beetle.

The fact is, I am going over myself to the Emerald Isle to look into matters on the spot—and then we will all meet and settle the thing once and for all—on Business lines.

JOHN BULL.

To the Rev. F. P. Farrar, London.

REV. SIR,—I am not sure that this will now find you, as I notice you have moved. If it does, do pray send me a line to lift the mystery of the cancellation of your appointment as Domestic Chaplain and Chaplain-in-Ordinary to the King, and Honorary Domestic Chaplain to the Queen. I trust the announcement has not been precipitated by the fact that you are not as well as you used to be? Please tell me what it all means. I hear such remarkable things.

JOHN BULL.

President Board of Trade.

Have you noticed judgment Court of Appeal in Law Guarantee case that ample evidence before jury of incompetency and dishonesty? Any news?

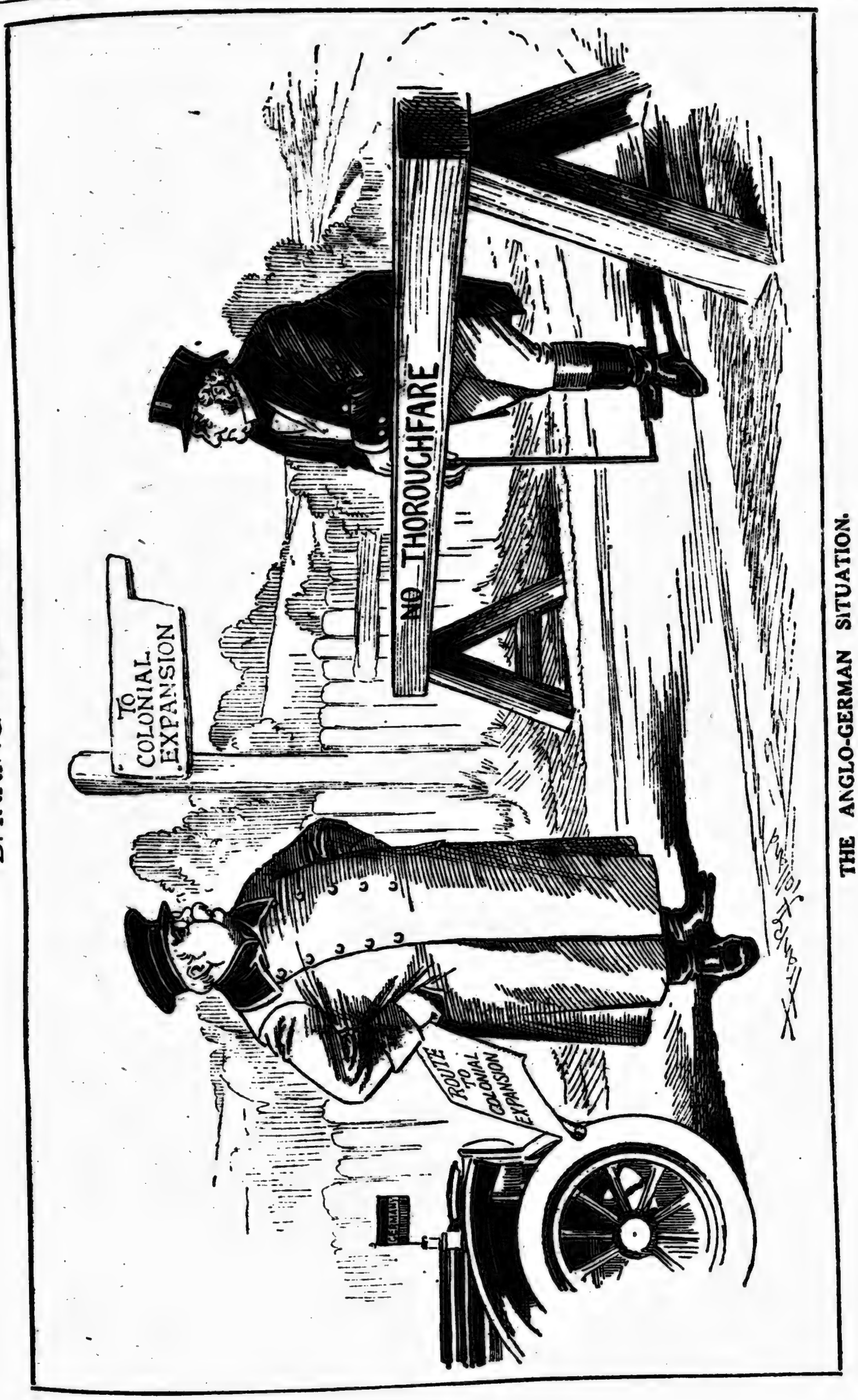
BULL.

Sir Edward Grey, Foreign Office.

Sincere congratulations on lucid and manly statement. I take back all I have said about you.

BULL.

BARRING THE ROAD.



THE ANGLO-GERMAN SITUATION.

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

By VERAX.

As usual, the nineteen-day account has come to an end very tamely, to which the talk about Anglo-German relations contributed. Personally, I am not afraid of renewed warlike tension, and if only investors were not rendered nervous by all the newspaper talk, we should now have active business in stocks and shares, for trade is good and easy money is assured, as the Bank of England is now practically receiving all the foreign gold consignments. *American Rails* are being hoisted by the Wall Street houses—unduly so, no doubt. *Home Rails* are advancing. The railway boards are absolutely against recognition of the Unions, and it is felt that strikes are prevented rather by the men's fears of the preparations by the companies than by Government policy. *Foreigners* are upon the whole steady, considering that a war in Europe and a great revolution are in progress. Argentina is being accused of national extravagance, and will have to draw in, but *Chili* is encouraged by a great loan success. Amongst mining shares, *Diamonds*, *Coppers*, and *Barriers* are strong, while *Kaffirs* and Rhodesians are rallying strongly from a series of "Bear" raids. But, as I am showing in my remarks, there are plenty of opportunities for profitable investment all round the markets.

SHIPPING SHARES ON THE UP-GRADE.

An outstanding feature of the last few weeks' business has been an advance in shipping shares and debentures. The improvement started a few months ago, after the Seamen's strike at Liverpool had been settled, when it affected more particularly *Royal Mail* shares, but it has since spread to other shares, which is not surprising, as out of some twenty-five companies whose reports have been published since the turn of the half-year, about twenty have shown very large increases in profits, and numerous increases in dividends have been possible. This improvement, moreover, comes on the top of increased earnings in 1909 to 1910. Rates, too, have been raised, as, for instance, by the Liverpool lines trading *viâ* Panama, which have put on 10 per cent. increase. The war in the Mediterranean, moreover, has mopped up all the excess tonnage. No wonder that prices have improved, as will be seen from the following table:—

	Shares. £	Lowest, 1910.	Lowest, 1911.	Present Quotations.
Cunard	20 ..	10½ ..	13⅝ ..	17½
Elder Dempster Deb.	100 ..	90 ..	96½ ..	103
Ellerman Lines	10 ..	7 7-16	9 3-16	9⅝
Furness Withy	1 ..	16/6 ..	18/3 ..	22/6
Houlder Line Debenture	100 ..	65½ ..	70½ ..	79½
India Gen. Nav.	10 ..	5 ..	5½ ..	6½
King Line	10 ..	4½ ..	4½ ..	6
Orient Prefs.	10 ..	8 ..	7¾ ..	8½
P. and O. Def.	100 ..	205 ..	213 ..	225½
Prince Line	1 ..	11/6 ..	15/– ..	17/6
Royal Mail	100 ..	53 ..	71½ ..	85
Union Castle	10 ..	10 ..	10⅞ ..	19

The table shows improvements almost all round from the lowest points, while in many cases the present prices are above the highest points reached in 1910, notably in the case of the *Cunard*, *Royal Mail*, and *Union Castle*. With regard to the *Union Castle*, which rose sharply on rumours of purchases in connection with the South African mail contract, the mystery has not yet been solved. The *Cunard* has done remarkably well, while the results published so far of the *P. and O.* and *Oriental Steam Navigation Company* are also satisfactory. There is here, therefore, an excellent opportunity for sound investment; yet it should be noted that several companies do not pay dividends on their *Ordinary* shares, while some, such as the *Bucknall Lines*, *Frederick Leyland and Company*, *Houlder Line*, *West Hartlepool*, and *Khedivial Mail*, do not even pay their preference share dividends.

KAFFIRS DECLINE AND RECOVER—RHODESIANS FIRMING UP—DR. SAUER'S RETIREMENT—DIAMOND SHARES ACTIVE—ANOTHER RISE IN DIAMOND PROPRIETARY.

The Kaffir Circus looks like having an important rise, now that the settlement has been got over. *Rand Mines* have improved to 6 27-32, *Goldfields Deferred* to 4⅛, while *New Modderfontein* are also better at 12. Now that the *East Rand Proprietary* scandal has been disposed of, investors are likely to enter the Kaffir market again, and prospects for the November gold output of the Transvaal are favourable. Very satisfactory news has come to hand by cable from various rich Rhodesian mines. Thus assays from the Rhodesia Exploration Company's *Belle Mine* at No. 6 level east are going as high as 7 ozs. 9 dwts. over 4 ft. 7ins., and 1 oz. 6 dwts. over 4 ft. 9 ins. The *Cam and Motor Company Mine* shows assays of from 11 dwts. to 1 oz. 2 dwts., and the *New Found-Out Mine* gives assays of from 5 dwts. to 11 dwts. A great deal of regret has been caused by the announcement that Dr. Hans Sauer is retiring from his numerous influential positions on the boards of Rhodesian mining companies, amongst which the chairmanship of the *Rhodesia Exploration Company* is one of the chief. Dr. Sauer is retiring on his medical man's advice to seek a well-earned rest, but his many friends in the City and South Africa still hope that eventually he will come back again, as it is not easy to replace so able and experienced a man, with an exceptional knowledge of Rhodesian mining. In the meantime, *Rhodesia Exploration* are quoted 2⅜. *Lonely Reef* 3⅛, *Falcon Mines* 1⅜-½, *Eldorado* 3⅜, *Shamva Mines* 4¾, while *Tanganyika* are rallying at 3. Very important is a rise in *Charbered* shares to 32s., accompanied by the statement that after all the splitting scheme is to be carried out in the course of December. By the way, the new flotation, *Planet-Arcturus*, is now quoted 1¼ to 1⅜ for special settlement. Diamond shares have again been on the up-grade, and *De Beers* are firmer at 19⅜ for the *Deferred*, while *Premier Deferred* have advanced to 10⅞. The shares in the *Diamond Proprietary Mine*, which I mentioned a week or two ago at 3s. 6d., have now advanced to 4s. 6d.-4s. 9d. It is understood that the working capital of £10,000 is ample for present requirements and will enable the company to finance the small diggers, thus largely increasing the output, which for the first half of 1911 was £9,977 (1,498 carats).

THE CHANNEL COAST AND MEDITERRANEAN FREEHOLD RESORTS, LTD.

The adjourned statutory meeting of this company, which was held last Saturday at the Cannon Street Hotel, must prove of interest to a great many readers of JOHN BULL. It will be seen that the chairman gave a full account of the progress of the company, and made several important points. One is that while the cost of the land is 6s. per square metre, they have made sales up to 12s. for the back lands, and 16s. for the land nearer the sea, and that is now the minimum price. He also drew attention to the railway facilities, the excellent hotel, on which a fair profit has already been made in the few months in which it has been open, and to the Casino, which will be open next week. A number of the shareholders present at the meeting had visited St. Cecile, and speak very favourably of it.

THE ANOMALY OF NORTHERN ONTARIO EXPLORATION.

There are curious anomalies to be discovered in the different markets, but one of the most striking will be found in the case of the £1 shares of the *Northern Ontario Exploration Company, Ltd.*, which are obtainable at the present moment at ¾, while the balance-sheet recently published shows them to be worth intrinsically 1½. The authorised capital is £400,000, of which 119,425 shares have been subscribed and fully paid. Amongst the company's original holdings were 44,000 shares in the *Hollinger Mine*, part of which were sold at a profit of £67,211, and even now *Hollinger* shares stand at 2¼. The credit balance to profit and loss is £63,021, while there is £80,900 in cash and liquid assets, and £87,500 in shares at cost. The profit has been earned in the first six months of the company's existence, and it has other business under negotiation, and will evidently make further big profits out of the *Hollinger Syndicate* and other such mines in the great Porcupine goldfield, from which the *Statist* correspondent writes that the *Hollinger* is being equipped with a 30-stamp mill, while they will float the adjoining *Miller Middleton* claims into a subsidiary in the spring, when *Hollingers* are expected to touch 3. In fact, the correspondent's views of the field are most encouraging. And here are shares already worth 1½ going begging at ¾.

DUNCAN FORBES AND CO.—PENAL SERVITUDE FOR THE OFFENDERS.

Many a time have I warned my readers against dealing with the persons who, under the name of Duncan Forbes and Co., carried on in London Wall a fraudulent outside broker business by means of lying circulars sent broadcast over the country, in which the most outrageous profits were promised and "guaranteed." Finally Robert Duncan Forbes and Charles Harrison were found guilty at the Central Criminal Court of conspiring to defraud, and of obtaining money by false pretences, also of obtaining credit without disclosing that they were undischarged bankrupts, and sentenced to five years' penal servitude. Both individuals had previously carried on similar nefarious businesses under various aliases. It is to be hoped that this severe sentence will serve to check the trade of dishonest outside brokers. I am glad to be able to state that in the "Letter Box" and by special paragraphs I did my utmost from week to week to prevent JOHN BULL readers from falling victims to these impudent

touts. The public examination of these persons at the London Bankruptcy Court has been adjourned until January 31st next.

THE BEST OF THE KENT COLLIERY INVESTMENTS.

The other day I drew attention to *Kent Collieries, Ltd.*, which own, besides mining rights over 13,000 acres, the freehold of 647 acres about two miles from Dover, the authorised capital being £300,000 in preference shares of £1 each, 15s. paid, and £263,000 in ordinary shares of 5s. each. Of the two working shafts, No. 2 is down 1,630ft., and has passed through two coal seams, while in the bore-hole five other seams have been intersected. The coal is of excellent quality, and the company will produce and sell coal early next year, while it is estimated that over one hundred million tons of coal are available in the company's properties, which should yield a profit of 6s. per ton. The investment which I recommend is that of the *Preference shares*, which are entitled to a cumulative preferential dividend of 10 per cent. per annum, and in addition to 80 per cent. of the remaining profits, while the ordinary shares are entitled to the 20 per cent. remaining. The preference shares have come into demand at ⅛-¾ premium, and look very tempting when compared with other *Kent Coal ventures*.

CHEAP INDUSTRIALS.

Although for the present such specialities as *Omnibus, Cements*, etc., hold the field in the industrial market, investors would be well advised to give these a rest now in favour of sound industrials, which can still be purchased at a moderate level. The iron and steel division first catches the eye, in view of the generally favourable results recently announced, and, for instance, in the *Furness* group, *South Durham* £1 shares are worth attention at 21s. 3d., in view of the 10 per cent. dividend for the past year, while the profits were nearly £60,000 as much again as for the previous year. Then there are *Hadfield's* £1 shares at 3⅞. This price looks high, but the shareholders are about to receive a handsome bonus in the form of one new share for every three held, at par only. The company has a splendid dividend record, and the annual dividends for the last few years have amounted to 17½ per cent. I should not be surprised, in fact, to see these shares gradually get back to the price of over 4¼ touched in 1907.

IS THE OIL TRUCE ENDED?—A SHELL COLLAPSE—MAIKOPS WELL HELD—EGYPTIAN OIL RUMOURS.

The oil share market has been plunged into fresh agitation by rumours that the truce between the *Standard* and *Shell* parties had been ended, and that the war of prices in the East had broken out with greater virulence than ever. As a result, and on some forced selling mainly from the North, *Shell Transports* collapsed to 78s. 6d., from which there has subsequently been a rally, on buying for the foreign division, to 80s. Whether the rumours are well founded or not matters very little to the Maikop group, which is protected by the Russian import duties, and consequently these shares have been generally well maintained. They are still low enough in all conscience, *Black Seas* at ⅛, *Victorys* at ¼ discount, *Maikop Pipeline* at 9s. 6d., etc. *Spies* have dropped to 31s. There has been a little revival in the Egyptian group on rumours of a new agreement with the Shell Transport, but the rise soon petered out again. What I prophesied in the case of the *Lobitos* has now come to pass, the shares having slumped heavily to 17s. 6d. The *British Consolidated Oil Corporation*, which was formed in February, 1908, to acquire some Californian properties, has had to find refuge in the hands of a receiver.

RUBBERS RALLY FROM A DECLINE—ENCOURAGING OUTLOOK FOR INVESTORS—MALACCA REPORT.

The "Bears" of Rubber shares have apparently done their worst, and the market is rallying again from a decline, thanks to an improvement in the commodity itself. Upon the whole, I take an encouraging view of the outlook, and investments can be made to good advantage in the leading shares, such as *Linggis* at 32s. 9d., *Anglo-Malay* at 14s. 9d., *Highlands* at 3⅜, *Labu* at 7s. 9d., etc.; but I have still to discourage speculative operations, for which the market is not yet ripe. Long-expected, come at last, the *Malacca* report fulfils anticipations upon the whole, but it remains to be seen whether the child-like faith of the Continental group, in taking a parcel of 10,000 of the shares at £15 apiece, as compared with the present quotation of £11, will be justified by events. Vallambrosa are steady at 23s. 6d., the reduction of the interim dividend from 1s. 6d. to 1s. per share being offset to some extent by the publication of the crop figures to date. So far 139,290 lbs. have been sold at 4s. 7½d. per lb., which leaves a substantial profit margin.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL LETTER-BOX.

(1) Letters containing inquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, JOHN BULL, 2, Copthall Buildings, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

(2) Correspondents should adopt either a nom-de-plume, or mention initials, under which the replies will appear in the paper. The stocks or subjects inquired about should also be numbered.

(3) Replies are made only in the ordinary way through the columns of this journal under the above heading, and not by letter.

(4) In no circumstances will the proprietors undertake the sale or purchase of stocks or shares.

(5) If inquirers wish it, for transacting business, the names and addresses of respectable firms of stockbrokers, members of the London Stock Exchange, will be supplied to them, in which case a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed.

6 A Postal Order for 1/- must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

£200 IN HOME RAILS.—C. H. J.—As you are satisfied with 4 to 4½ per cent., you might put this sum into Great Central 1876 Five per Cent. Pref. stock, at 115. (1) You pay the money against the transfer of the stock. (2) Through a stockbroker.

RUBBERS.—S. D. H.—In view of the fact that these rubber shares are now practically unsaleable, there is no option but to hold the same. There is always a possibility, however, of their coming along again one of these days, but patience is required. ELMINA.—Like so many other low-priced shares, these have dropped out of the running for the time being, and there is no option but to hold for the present. As far as I can gather, this is a fairly good Company of the kind.

PREMIUM BONDS.—LIVERPUDLIAN.—It is quite impossible to give you the headquarters of the various loans, but I send you the address of a respectable firm of Foreign Bankers in London, who will, against a small fee, inform you as to which bonds have been drawn. They will also be able to advise you as regards the present value.

OUTSIDE BROKERS.—X. RAY.—I am afraid that you are not likely to get any money from the Anglo-American Investment Trust, of 212, Shaftesbury Avenue. You ought not to have allowed the matter to rest so long, and, in fact, you ought never to have dealt with these kind of people. WILLIAM.—The firm of Cassell and Langton, of 85, Gresham Street, London, E.C., are not members of the Stock Exchange, but outside brokers, and, as you must be aware, I do not recommend dealing with outside brokers. NEMO.—You cannot be a regular reader of my financial columns, or else you would already have seen the name of Guthrie and Gunter, of 55a, Shaftesbury Avenue. (1) No. (2) I know nothing about the Incorporated Trust, and it must stand to reason to anyone with average intelligence that these precious promises of guaranteed profits cannot be kept. I would, therefore, advise you to have nothing to do with these philanthropists. (3 and 4) No. (5) Outside brokers. I do not recommend the transaction. LITTLE SUE.—(1) I do not advise such transactions, and you would only lose the small amount mentioned under No. 2. With regard to Nos. 3 and 4, I am writing you. JACKIE.—(1) These people are now being prosecuted. As soon as anything is known about the Liquidator, I will publish it in these columns. (2) The case against Duncan Forbes and Company has resulted in a sentence of 5 years' penal servitude against two of the partners. GUTHRIE AND GUNTER.—SMALL INVESTOR.—No, I strongly advise you not to join these duplicate operations, circularised by this firm. (1) It is not safe. (2) No. (3) Yes, a paragraph concerning this firm appeared in JOHN BULL on July 29th, page 173. The documents are returned. GOLF.—You had better leave well alone, and do not send any more money to these outside brokers. It might go all right for a little while, but when any good profits were to stand to your credit, it might suddenly stop. No one can guarantee continued profits, and these people are not philanthropists. WELSH.—(1) You had better make the enquiry from the Syndicate through whom you have received the circulars. (2) Outside brokers. I should advise you not to have any dealings with them. (3) What you require has been forwarded to you. W. H. F.—How can you, on the receipt of circulars from a dealer in stocks and shares who is unknown to you, part with your money to buy shares in the Anglo-Brazilian Motor Transport Company, Limited, which you say was known to be bankrupt 12 days before you purchased the shares? Of course, you can demand your money back, as it looks like a case of false pretences, and you had better employ a solicitor if they will not return the money.

BONUS STAMPS.—F. S.—You do not seem to have any written agreement from the traveller, and without it no doubt the traveller's word would stand against yours. You ought to have been more careful. I cannot advise going to law. You had better come to an arrangement.

RUSSIAN MAIL CONTRACTORS' PROMOTION SYNDICATE.—ST. LEGER (Doncaster).—The Trust you mention is only an outside brokers' concern, and you ought never to have had any dealings with them. The final mistake you made in transferring your interest to this precious Russian Mail Contractors' Promotion Syndicate, which Allison and Company now say is in litigation. If you had written to me at first, I would have told you to have had nothing to do with these people, but a sharp City solicitor would probably get the money out of them.

RENTING A HORSE.—H. C. (Erin).—It is usual for the tenant to pay something towards the fee for the agreement, but the agent should have mentioned this to you. I take it that your agreement has the clause "fair wear and tear excepted," and this gives you the answer.

KENT COLLIERIES, LIMITED.—A. E. (Dumbarton).—You have made quite a mistake. The company to which I referred was the Kent Collieries Company, and not Kent Coal Limited. Kent Collieries have nothing to do with Mr. Burr.

VARIOUS.—A. T. C.—(1) Very little market just now, and you had better retain them for the present. (2) No market, and I do not advise an investment. (3) These shares are only quoted at about 5s. 6d., and it is hardly worth while realising them just now.

MIDLAND DEFERRED.—J. C. H.—This stock is £100 nominal, and as the dividend for the past twelve months was 3¾ per cent., the yield at the present quotation of 72½ is practically 5¼ per cent. per annum.

ANNUITY.—ANNUMANN.—Apply to the North British and Mercantile, Scottish Widows' Fund, Sun Life, Norwich Union, and Royal Insurance, and compare their rates. You can easily make your selection then.

KAFFIRS, ETC.—SALTIE.—You have a mixed lot of Kaffirs, and I cannot advise averaging until the market takes a permanent turn for the better. The time will come, but not yet. As regards Simmer East, the position is still a mystery, and there is no reason why you should not apply to the parent Company, the Consolidated Goldfields, for some information on the matter. No option but to hold the Egyptian shares (6), but the Egyptian financial position still gives rise to uneasiness.

INSURANCE SHARES.—BRADFORDIAN.—There is no market for these Insurance shares, and I have no great opinion of them. You might try and sell them, if possible, on the Manchester Stock Exchange, but I think you will have some difficulty in doing so.

PRODUCE BROKERS' COMPANY.—A. B. C.—I cannot find any market quotation for these shares, and do not advise a purchase.

A large number of replies are unavoidably held over.
Owing to great pressure upon our space, a number of Insurance Answers are also held over.

IMAGINARY INTERVIEW.

By WALTER MOORE.

THE CROWN PRINCE OF GERMANY.

Hearing that the Crown Prince of Germany had been sentenced by his august father to a term of "house-arrest" at Dantzig, my innate humanity prompted me to cross the Channel, with the idea of enlivening his high-and-mightiness's imprisonment with a few minutes' chat.

I found the Prince surrounded by a crowd of kindred spirits, quaffing huge mugs of lager beer, smoking enormous pipes, and rearing gutteral songs about Der Vaderland.

"Allmächtig! An Englischmann!" yelled the Crown Prince, immediately he caught sight of me.

The company sprang instantly to their feet, looks of hatred flitting across their faces.

"Squat-du!" I said sternly, fumbling in my brains for German long since learnt and almost as long forgotten.

"Das es nod Sherman," said the Crown Prince with a sneer.

"I know it isn't," I retorted, "but you know what it means. Squatty vous; down, dogs; and that sort of thing."

"Vod you vand?" demanded the Prince.

"Well, to tell you the truth," I replied, "I was curious to see the little boy who has just been spanked by his father for making faces at England."

"I mäg more vaces at England soon, see?" growled the Prince. "Vaid till I am der kaiser. Den you see."

"Bezwingt des Herzens Bitterkeit," I admonished.

"I sall *nod* subdue der bidderness off mine hardt," returned the Prince, scowling. "I *hade* der Englische. I sall always hade der Englische."

"Why?" I asked, mildly. "What have *we* done?"

"Vot aboud Morroggo?" grunted the Prince.

"Well, what about it?" I said.

"Bah!" he exclaimed, "I haf no batience mit you. Vot aboud Agadir?"

"Go on, then," I said. "What about it?"

"Und vot about—er—udder blaces, ur?" growled the Prince.

"I'm waiting," I remarked. "What about them?"

"Haf you nod inderrubded all our leedle blans?" demanded the Crown Prince fiercely.

"Very likely," I returned. "You see, we have little plans of our own. For example, it is one of our little plans to retain the command of the sea."

"Donner und Blitzen!" shouted the enraged Prince; "you shall nod! Nod when I am der kaiser."

"Another little plan of ours is to prevent your annexing Belgium and Holland," I continued calmly.

The Crown Prince looked startled. His friends exchanged significant looks.

"Dere are too many Englische sbies in der Vaderland," muttered the Prince.

"And too many German barbers, German waiters, German bands, and German sausages in England," I rejoined.

"Dond you insuld der Sherman sausage, or it will be der würst vor you," said the Prince, thickly.

"I have no desire to do that, the sausage being your national dish. I would merely remark Der Mensch ist, was er isst, which, being interpreted—in case any of your young friends here do not properly understand their own language—means, man is what he eats."

"Ad any rade, we do nod ead der flesch of der Chinese pig, dot feeds on der offal of der streets," retorted the Prince.

"You've got one home there," I confessed, slightly abashed. "But neither would we, if we only had a Business Government."

"A Beezness governmend," he cried. "Vot vos dot?"

"It's a government that would keep you Germans in order, anyway," I replied, slightly heated. "It's a government that would jolly soon teach you your place."

"Allmächtig!" laughed the Prince. "How vos dot?"

"How vos dot?" I repeated. "Why, in the first place we would ask you what the deuce you are building such a big fleet for, and unless we got a satisfactory reply in quick time we should set about reducing the size of it, before it overgrew itself and became dangerous to the peace of Europe and the world."

"But you haf no god a Beezness governmend," grinned the Kaiser's limb, "so ve go on building sheeps, ja?"

"Too true," I agreed, gloomily. But, recalling certain recent occurrences in England, I cheered up, gathered together my hat and stick, and departed, firing as a parting shot—

"Wait and see!"

"JOHN BULL'S" CHRISTMAS FUND.

FOR THE RELIEF OF THE POOR, IRRESPECTIVE OF SECT OR CREED, OR ANY OTHER CONSIDERATION.

We again make an appeal to the generosity of our readers to enable us, at the approaching Christmas season, to distribute gifts of food, clothing, toys, etc., amongst the London poor. Upon previous occasions the response has been most gratifying, and we feel sure that the same will be the case again this year. First, we want money with which we buy orders upon local butchers, bakers, grocers, and others, enabling the recipients to obtain food and take it to their own homes for consumption, a course much preferable to crowding them into public buildings in the old-fashioned way. Every subscription will be duly acknowledged in our columns. Secondly, we want left-off clothing of all shapes and sizes. This we will have carefully sorted out by the hands of willing workers, and made into suitable "lots," corresponding with numbered orders which will be given by our helpers to those most in need of the things. Thirdly, we want toys for the little ones, to help to brighten their dismal homes at Christmas time. We guarantee that they shall be wisely and well distributed. We can also do with boxes of oranges, sweets, fruit, crackers—in short, anything likely to bring a little happiness—if only for a few days—into the homes of the poor.

All subscriptions should be forwarded to us here, but everything else should be addressed to JOHN BULL'S Depot, 189, Cambridge Road, Cambridge Heath, London, E.

We thankfully acknowledge the following:—

G. C. H., 1s.; E. B. K., 5s.; A. D., 20s.; Emma, 2s.; Constant Reader, 5s.

Messrs. J. S. Fry and Sons, Limited, 1 gross 1d. milk chocolate, 1 gross 1d. Vanilla chocolate, 1 gross 1d. Vitesio chocolate, 1 gross 1d. bundles, 1 gross 1d. milk bundles, 2 gross 1d. cream sticks, 1 doz. knives, cards, etc

Sir Thomas Lipton, the handsome present of over 1,000 each of the following:—Large meat pies, slices of cake, oranges.

"PRUDES ON THE PROWL."

We have pleasure in announcing the following further generous subscriptions, in response to our appeal for funds to send the victim of the recent "accosting" case for a rest and change of air:—

S. and B., 2s.; "Anti-Cant," 10s. 6d.; R. C. M., £1; "Plain Man," 2s. 6d.; G. and A. W., 1s.; "Protestant Alliance," 1s.; G. G., 21s.; "Another Parson," 10s.; M. M., 10s.; J. H., 5s.; "Barnes," 1s.; "Philogynist," 20s.

THE PRESS AND A BUSINESS GOVERNMENT.

JOURNALISTIC STRAWS INDICATING THE DIRECTION OF THE POLITICAL WIND.

Last week we published extracts from a remarkable article which recently appeared in the *Evening Standard*, showing how that old-fashioned organ of the Conservative party was beginning to recognise the force of the currents which are making for a Business Government.

We now give a few more striking quotations from journals of both parties.

Whilst the *Star* recently declared that the present Ministry is "essentially a Business Government," the *Daily Chronicle* confesses that "the mysteries of the reshuffle of the Ministry are obscure." The *Express* tells us, "This is a business age. In the new Unionist leader we have a business man, and being business people we require a business policy." Our contemporary could not bring itself to say "a Business Government" all at once.

The *Glasgow News* asks, "Where is there more necessity for the business man possessed of the aptitudes for statesmanship than in handling the affairs of Great Britain? In every direction, if you will only think of it, you will discover that British policy, national and international, is closely related to business."

We have no space for many tributes to Mr. Bonar Law from eminent politicians because, forsooth! he is "a business man."

"BRAININE."

The only Cure for "Nerves" and Worry.

See advt. page 789.

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Please forward me gratis and post free your booklet. "The Modern System of Money Making," which is a clear explanation of the methods of business which have enabled your clients to receive over half-a-million pounds.

J.B. 2.12.11.

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LETTERS FROM JANE ANN.

[Being communications from a young person to her friends and relations.]

By Moore Anking.

The Durdles,
Diddleston.

Dear Peggy,—You don't seem to tell me awful much in your loving letters just now, so I s'pose, dear, you get tired at whatever it is you're doing for a living. But then, writing and reading don't run much in your family do they, dear? I've heard say that your ma can't tell a bee from a bull's foot, but I didn't bleeve it till I saw her and then I wasn't over sure either way, 'cause you can't always tell what's in a person's headpiece just by looking at their dial, can you, dear?

I often thought after seeing your mother and you what a treet it would be to see your father, but I never did. I s'pose he got sent away before my time.

Father told us once how your pa got called Old Testy. Seems that a gentleman friend of the parties was having a compli-mentary benefit, he having had the mis-forchune to set his wife a-fire. They called it a testy-monial on the tickets, and your father wouldn't pay his tuppence. He said he didn't mind helping those he knowed but he'd never heard tell of Testy Monial and wasn't going to encurridge him.

I've heard say, though, in the hopping season your pa was one of the quickest hoppers that ever hopped—didn't seem to let his right hand know what the left was doing. I s'pose the time come when he didn't know what either of them was doing, else the pleece wouldn't have fetched him out of bed in the middle of the night. Funny thing, dear, but most men get into trouble with their hands. I remember when Bert's cousin come home on furlow, being a handy-man he thought he had to be busy all the time. He made hisself so useful that Bert had to tell him about it. There didn't seem to be much rest and peace for anybody till he went to sea again.

No, dear, you don't sur-prise me a bit to tell me Clara Parkins has had to take a lodger, 'cause I didn't sup-pose that her John was one to keep the rent paid and do for a family. Clara *will* be busy. I s'pose her and her chap take it in turns to sleep in the fire-place, or else they'd a middling nice room s'far's I can remember, though I didn't trust myself to stay long when I saw it. You never told me in your letter which corner of their room they've let.

One thing, dear, everybody says young people ought to pull together, and it don't seem right to me that one half of the combi-nashun should reside nightly under the sink and the other in the fireplace. Of course, I dessay Clara's laying the extra money out on useful things—stockings p'rans and aprons very likely—but it can't be all honey and I always think when young folks in single rooms take a lodger somebody's bound to feel the pinch.

Still, I'm glad for your sake Clara's got someone she can tell her troubles to, and I shouldn't wonder if you and her get to be thick as thieves. What I mean to say is, you happen to be well-matched you two, and there's no reason why that shouldn't brighten the home-life. If the lodger's not a particular sort he ought to find you a great comfort. And after all I don't see that Clara could be fruitful and multiply much on what her John scraped up by selling pie-dishes off a barrow. Not for long together she couldn't.

Now that your puzzle's dis-appeared—not wanting any con-jogal rites, I s'pose—seems to me, dear, if I was in your place I could settle down and treet marrid life with despisery. Chasing persons round the bandstand don't seem to be reely helpful in your case, and you don't get any younger or more beautiful, do you, queen?

I wonder you don't try for a soft job at the sack-making or something like that. Bottle of flewid and a bar of soap like I sent Clara would help you past the doctor and in three or four years you'd very likely be able to make your own cos-tumes. You want to think of the fewcher, queenie, and clothes is something you'll need as long as you live, unless you should go abroad among your own people, and its nice to be earning good money even it isn't much.

x x Bleeve me, dear, yours sincerely. x x

Jane Ann.

"BRAININE."
The only Cure for "Nerves" and Worry.
See advt. page 789.

THE NEW EYESIGHT TREATMENT.

ARE JOHN LEVISON'S CLAIMS TO RESTORE PERFECT SIGHT GENUINE?

An Investigation in the Interest of "John Bull" Readers.

During the last few weeks a treatment for weak eyesight, for which very considerable claims have been made, has been widely advertised by a Mr. John Levison. The announcements have been of a most attractive and convincing character, and the interest they have aroused has been phenomenal. For instance, more than 2,000 people whose sight was defective answered Mr. John Levison's announcement, which appeared in John Bull a fortnight since.

In view of the great importance of this matter to the public, we have considered it necessary, in the interests not only of John Bull readers but of the general public, who are consulting Mr. John Levison in such numbers about this vitally important question of their eyesight, to make an investigation of his claim to be able to benefit practically all classes of eyesight sufferers who follow out his treatment.

(1) Mr. Levison claims that if his treatment were adopted by the 22,000,000 people in this country whose eyesight is defective the great eyesight decadence, which is undoubtedly one of the worst and most distressing features of present-day life, would be almost entirely arrested.

> It is undoubtedly too early to pronounce whether Mr. Levison's method would have this far-reaching effect. Up to the present, however, Mr. Levison has only had to refuse a very small percentage of cases asking for the treatment, such as sufferers from cataract, and one or two other less frequently met with eyesight troubles. However, of those who have taken his treatment there has not been a single instance of failure reported up to the date of our investigation, whilst we saw many of the reports of gratifying improvement which are daily coming to hand from those who have actually undergone a few weeks' treatment.
>
> Therefore this claim, though a very wide one, does not appear to be entirely unreasonable in view of the facts Mr. Levison has so far proved.

(2) Mr. Levison claims that his treatment is successful in the following conditions:—Failing or weakening sight, Failing of long sight, Failing of short sight, Blurring, Twitching eyes, Hot eyes, Watery eyes, Discharging eyes, Unequal power of eyes, Aching eyes, Red and Inflamed eyes, and Eyesight headache.

> We called for specific proof of successfully treated cases dealing with these conditions. This was supplied by Mr. Levison in the form of patients' personal reports of their own experiences as the result of carrying out the Levison Treatment, and we must say that we were struck not only by the fact that these reports fully bore out Mr. Levison's claim, but also were couched in terms of the highest gratitude to Mr. Levison, and expressed satisfaction at having been fortunate enough to learn of such a valuable eyesight cure.

(3) Mr. Levison claims that his treatment is perfectly safe in every case, is suitable to both young and old, and is so simple that it can be carried out by the eyesight sufferer entirely in his own home by means of the written directions which he sends with each treatment.

> The letters produced amply bore out each of these statements, and we are satisfied that there is no difficulty or complication of any sort to prevent anyone from reaping its benefits, even though they are not able to visit Mr. Levison personally. Indeed, the majority of the successful reports were from residents at a distance from London who had received the treatment and Mr. Levison's instructions by post.

To sum up the facts, we may say that it seems certainly worth the while of all whose eyesight is defective to write Mr. Levison for a copy of his illustrated book in which he concisely sets forth the scientific principle and application of his method in plain language, shorn of technical embellishment. He makes no charge for this book, only asking inquirers to enclose a penny stamp for postage.

To those two thousand readers of John Bull who have already written to Mr. Levison it will be some satisfaction to know that his claims are supported by genuine testimony to the extent we have detailed, as this will help them in coming to a decision whether they will adopt his treatment for the benefit of their eyesight.

The address at which Mr. Levison may be seen personally or written to for his above-mentioned book is 19, New Oxford Street, London, W.

SPURIOUS SYMPOSIUMS.

SUPPOSITITIOUS REPLIES OF PROMINENT PEOPLE

THE SERVANT STAMP.

Following the example of most of our daily contemporaries, we have opened our columns to correspondents eager to express their views on the above vital question. The consequences have been somewhat serious. We print some of them.

THE RIGHT HON. ARTHUR BALFOUR writes:—

Before venturing to express my own views I consulted with my cook-housekeeper, who, with scathing irony, declared that if "the rare and refreshing fruit" with which Mr. Lloyd George has promised to moisten the "parched lips of the multitude," consists of adhesive stamps, she desired none of it. She lent additional emphasis to her observation by adding the not altogether inappropriate expletive, "By gum!" pronouncing the same with true Yorkshire breadth, from which county she hails.

For my own part, having retired from the leadership of my party, I find that my views on this admittedly great question are somewhat nebulous. However, I expect I shall end by going into the lobby with my cook, so to speak.

Yours, perforated with doubts,
ARTHUR JAMES BALFOUR.

A letter from the FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY follows:—

I am far too busy preparing to lick the enemy to pay any attention to the absurd agitation against licking stamps. Obviously, stamps are made to be licked. Then why on earth not lick them? They may taste better than they look. On these grounds I appeal to the highly intelligent and eminently sensible class of domestic servants throughout the country to suspend their judgment until they have had an opportunity of testing the flavour of the Servant Stamp. By doing this they will be showing much gumption, and at the same time will greatly oblige,

Yours truly,
WINSTON S. CHURCHILL.

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW writes:—

In reply to your distinctly impertinent inquiry, I have been smitten with rather a brilliant idea—as so often occurs to me. I don't believe that even G. K. Chesterton has thought of it yet. Listen. All those fastidious persons who object to licking the Servant Stamp can overcome their difficulty by *licking the card* and placing the dry stamp gum-side downwards on the moistened paper. This solution of the problem should effectually dispose of all objections to the scheme.

Yours indifferently,
GEORGE B. SHAW.

From Mr. G. R. SIMS comes the following:—

Behold, when weekly "lick-day" comes
(Lloyd George Insurance on the ramp!);
Compelled to lick such various gums,
What wonder if the servants stamp?

* * * * * * *

Why did the King go to India?

* * * * * * *

Ever tried Tatcho?

Yours vivaciously,
DAGONET.

MISS MARIE CORELLI has favoured us with the following effusion:—

The Servant Stamp! Bah! A further degradation of woman is hidden in this insidious scheme. Woman has licked the dust so long beneath the brutal dominance of man that he cannot even offer her a benefit (if this Insurance be one, indeed) without requiring that she shall lick something to obtain it; and, adding injury to insult, he even demands that she shall pay out of her scanty wages for the thing she is required to lick!

Women! emerge from out the foul miasma of servility in which you have groped since time began! Remember the tremendous power and potency of your tongue, and see to it that that instrument is not degraded to the vile purpose of licking stamps! I have spoken.

MARIE CORELLI.

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NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

ANTICIPATED EPITAPHS.

By W. M.

Wythyn
Thys caft-iron tombe
Refts
What is left
Of
Andrew Bonar Law,
Leader
For a whyle
Of ye Confervatyve Partie in
Ye Houſe of Commons
As well as out of itt.
Born
Anno Domini 1858
In Newe Brunfwicke,
Canada,
Hee hadde no sooner learned to sing
"Ye Maple Leaf for Ever!"
Than
Hee was tranſported
To ye lande of hys forefathers and foremothers,
To wit,
Ye Northern porçion of Englande,
Commonlie called
Scotlande.
Educated at Glafgow.
Ye iron soone entered into hys soule,
Soe
Hee decyded to trade in thatte partickular commoditie;
Ye whyche hee didde
Wyth greate profytt to hymself.
Havynge made hys pile,
Hee turned hys thoughts to politicks,
And entered Parliamente
As
Confervatyve Member for ye Blackfriars Dyvyfion of Glasgow,
Anno Domini 1900.
Two yeares later hee was appoynted
Parliamentarie Secretarie of ye Boarde of Trade.
Butte when,
Anno Domini 1906,
Ye Confervatyve Partie entered into
Ye colde shades of oppoſiçion,
Hee sunk once more into semi-obfcurite,
From ye whyche hee didde notte emerge
Until
Anno Domini 1911,
When ye resignaçion of
ARTHUR BALFOUR
Left ye Confervatyve leaderſhippe vacant.
Bothe
AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN
And
WALTER LONG
Were in ye runnynge for ye jobbe,
And itt looked lyke beynge
A dead heate,
When
ANDREW BONAR LAW,
Suddenlie forgynge ahead,
Won on ye poste.

Looke, Stranger, on thys tombe with awe,
Here lye ye boanes of Bonar Law,
Ye firſt of bufinefs men to grippe
Ye sceptre of ye leaderſhippe.
Sterne in debate, and styngynge in retorte,
Hee steered ye Torie vefsel safe to porte;
Then, havynge triumphed, and confirmed hys fame,
He poured hys scorne upon ye Partie Game.
[We trust this is truly prophetic.—ED.]

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CHARACTER DELINEATIONS.

By Our Tame Phrenologist.

ADMIRAL LORD CHARLES BERESFORD.

Come in, Admiral. . . . Come in! . . . 'Pon me word, my lord, you bring quite a refreshing atmosphere with you, smacking of the briny, and good strong tar. . . . But you don't mean to say you want your bumps read? . . . Objection?—Of course I've no objection. It will give me the utmost pleasure. I have never yet had a genuine sailor under my hands. True, I've fingered First Lords of the Admiralty; but in these days of Party jobbery and trickery and humbug, they do not count at all, in my estimation. Shams, my lord—simply shams; just as we have sham War Ministers, sham Presidents of the Board of Agriculture, and the like. . . .

But, my lord, you'll think I'm paying out too much cable. I must avast heaving, as the sailors say, ha! ha!

The cut of your jib declares you to be a born sailor, and the whole of your top-hamper, so to speak, confirms the fact. The bump of *Combativeness*, situated slightly above and behind the ear—er, the mizzen-course, as you might say—is well found, and bellies out nicely. This is essential to all who are required to fight not only the elements, when the stormy winds do blow, but also the King's enemies when they commence to run a little too free in a "breeze."

The bump of *Destructiveness* is properly present also—just about here, Admiral, in the region of the spanker, eh?—What? . . . Ha! ha! . . .

Your main-royal, or bump of *Consciousness* is set fair and full, and helps you to keep a true course—your main sky-sail, the faculty of *Firmness*, helping you to maintain an even keel. . . .

Your bump of *Self-esteem*, or mizzen-top galant sail, is well clewed up, and *Love of Approbation*, which I may appropriately call your main-topgallant studding-sail, is close-furled most of the time.

A square-rigged head like yours, Admiral, is invaluable of the nation. True, it must be admitted that your faculty of *Language* sometimes gets a little out of control and would be the better for a reef or two; but when it does shiver in the wind a bit, you invariably have a very good excuse for its slackness.

To drop nautical metaphor—and I dare say it is incorrect for the most part—you have all the faculties needed to make a great sailor, and if this unhappy country of ours were only free of the weeds and barnacles of Party politics, and the ship of State, with a well-scraped keel, was sailing fair and clean under a Business charter, you would be one of the navigating officers, take it from me. . . .

I promised to drop nautical metaphor. . . . I know I did, but with a jolly jack-tar like you before me I can't help dropping into sailors' lingo.

I find a bump here which nobody ever suspected you of possessing—*Cautiousness*. When you showed your dare-devil pluck on the *Condor*, on the *Safia*, and on the *Undaunted*; when you won your three medals for life-saving, you were praised, but credited with Irish recklessness; and were considered by the old fossils who wear out the leather arm-chairs at the Admiralty too hot stuff to be "safe." But what else but Cautiousness has led you to withdraw your book, *The Betrayal*, from circulation?—Admiral, I admire you, I like the firm feel of your British head, and I wish we could look forward to seeing you at the Admiralty, with your fellow-countryman and equally "well-plucked" 'un, Kitchener, at the War Office.

No, my lord. . . . No money from *you*, please. . . . It was an honour.

"BRAININE."
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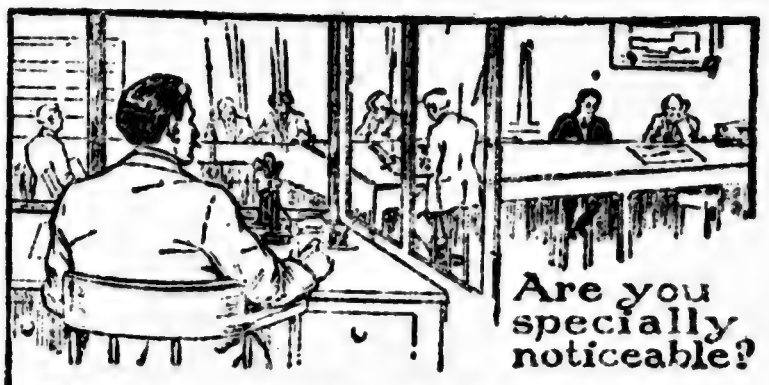
See advt. page 789.



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CHANNEL COAST RESORTS.

A meeting of shareholders of the Channel Coast and Mediterranean Freehold Resorts (Limited) was held on Saturday last, at the Cannon Street Hotel.

Mr. John Martin presided, and stated that the directors had had a trying time at the commencement of building the hotel at St. Cecile, owing to a strike breaking out in the building trade, and in order to get the work completed they had had to take over some 150 English workmen. The company had been criticised in the Press because they had given away some 150,000 free shares as an advertisement, but they thought they had acted wisely, for it was the means of getting some 15,000 people interested, and of the latter number 6,000 were shareholders. The directors had been approached by a French bank in Paris with the idea of a joint working interest. It was proposed that at first they should only sell large blocks of land, thereby providing a certain number of shares as a means of doubling the size of the company. If these negotiations went through there was a chance of the shareholders getting something more than 7½ per cent. in February.

They had also been approached by a French-Swiss syndicate for the purchase of their hotel. This had cost them £7,500, and it had been valued at £25,000 as a going concern. If they got this sum it would yield a very reasonable profit. With regard to their land, this had cost them 6s. per square metre. They had sold nearly 600 metres at 10s. per square metre, and 1,500 at 12s. They were preparing an organisation to sell land on easy terms extending over three or four years at a minimum of 12s. per metre for the back land and 16s. for land nearer the sea.

The casino would be open, and, although it did not belong to them, they had many shareholders who were interested in that also. They were informed that a license for les petits chevaux and la boule would be granted this season, and probably for baccarat and chemin de fer. In addition, Mr. Burtart, one of the directors, had invented an aero-cycle for use on the sands, which promised to be very popular, and a great future was predicted for it.

Both the railway companies—the Chatham and Dover and the Northern of France Railways—had offered them every facility in the running of trains, which would bring them visitors not only from Paris, but from other French towns. There were many things that they wanted to introduce to their new town. They wanted a laundry, dairy farm, water supply, an artesian well, motor garage, sand yacht garage, and a cinematograph theatre.

No resolution being before the meeting, a vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

BILLS THAT OUGHT TO BE PASSED.

THE WOMEN'S SHOPPING BILL.

PREAMBLE.

WHEREAS the ancient custom of barter has become practically extinct in these realms; and

WHEREAS its place has been taken by the present system of purchasing at shops, stores, repositories, and emporiums; and

WHEREAS the custom and habit of shopping is now mainly confined to women; and

WHEREAS the said women have permitted much that is undesirable, ill-mannerly, and discreditable to creep into their methods of shopping.

THE BILL.

BE it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:—

1.—From and after the First day of January, 1912, any woman who shall, without reasonable cause, speak disdainfully, superciliously, insultingly, or slightingly to any shop assistant, whether male or female, to the manifest pain, confusion or irritation of the said shop assistant, shall be deemed guilty of insulting behaviour, and when brought before a magistrate and convicted, may be sentenced to pay compensation not exceeding five pounds in amount to the injured shop assistant, as well as all the costs of the proceedings.

2.—Any woman making any complaint or other injurious report to any shop-walker, manager, or proprietor of any shop, store, repository, or emporium, concerning any assistant employed in the said shop, store, repository, or emporium, not having any just cause for such complaint or injurious report, shall be deemed guilty of malicious behaviour, and shall be liable, upon conviction, to a fine not exceeding five pounds, or in default one month's imprisonment in the second division.

3.—Any woman entering any shop, store, repository, or emporium and endeavouring to attract the attention of any assistant already engaged with a customer, shall be deemed guilty of insulting behaviour, and upon conviction may be liable to one month's imprisonment without the option of a fine.

4.—Any woman attending any bargain sale at any shop, store, repository, or emporium, who shall snatch or otherwise forcibly take, drag, or wrench any article or articles from the hand or hands of any other customer shall be held guilty of an aggravated assault, and shall be liable, upon conviction, to three months' imprisonment, or in default a fine not exceeding twenty pounds.

5.—Any woman attending any bargain sale at any shop, store, repository, or emporium, who shall blacken the eye or eyes, tear the clothes, or otherwise brutally assault any other female customer whilst entering or during her presence in the said shop, store, repository, or emporium, shall be deemed guilty of disorderly behaviour, and shall be liable, upon conviction, to a fine not exceeding twenty shillings.

6.—Any woman who shall keep her husband, father, brother, cousin, or other male relative, friend, or acquaintance waiting outside any shop, store, repository, or emporium for a longer period than twenty minutes, whilst the said woman is inside the said shop, store, repository, or emporium, making, assuming, or pretending to make a purchase or purchases, shall be held guilty of cruelty to animals, and shall be liable upon conviction, to six months' hard labour.

7.—Any woman who shall give her husband, father, brother, cousin, or other male relation, friend, or acquaintance, more than one parcel to carry, shall be deemed guilty of cruelty to animals, and shall be liable upon conviction, to three months' hard labour.

8.—Any woman who shall pass more than one hour in any shop, store, repository, or emporium, and leave the said shop, store, repository, or emporium, without having made a purchase, having during that time occupied the whole attention of one or more shop assistants, shall be held guilty of committing a nuisance, and upon conviction may be liable to a fine not exceeding forty shillings.

9.—Any woman who aggravates the offence detailed in clause 8 by saying she "will tell her friend," or asking for patterns to take away, shall, upon conviction, be liable to a further fine of ten shillings.

THE DRAMA OF TO-DAY.

By M. Clement Scott.

"The Haunted House."

If anyone dare to say that there is nothing new under the sun, let him instantly don his joy rags and hasten to St. George's Hall, Langham Place, where he will witness about the most absorbing and strange experiment that human eye has ever gazed upon. Let me try to describe it to you. In the midst of four gauze-made walls, with a door on the right and another on the left, stands a one-storied house, built on four wooden posts. There are steps leading up to this red-roofed maisonette, and you can enter it from the back, or the front, so that the audience seated in the hall has a full view of the interior of this picturesque little abode. Long french windows with lace curtains open on to the steps, and the place is destitute of inhabitants. Messrs. Maskelyne and Devant then invite anybody to come up on to the stage, every door is opened, every detail, even to the covered-in contrivance which "puts the lid on" to the four walls, is pointed out. The lights are dimmed slightly, and presently the emptiness within the building is filled with shadowy forms. They grow more and more defined, until at length you are aware that a murder is being committed in this silent home, and you are spellbound. Other beings come and go, and finally there is a fire, the windows are thrown violently open and two firemen rescue a woman in the very nick of time from what looks like a horrible death. It is pretty certain that with a programme of such infinite variety and novelty, St. George's Hall will be a big centre of attraction during holiday time.

"The Glad Eye."

In these columns there appeared not many weeks ago a notice of "The Glad Eye," and an assertion that the amusing play would turn out a "dead cert." Most of the other journals I read scoffed at, or treated with indifference, the Globe production. John Bull was right though, business is colossal, and at the end of the month this merrymaker will be transferred to the Apollo in order to make way for "The Pink Lady," by C. M. S. McLellan, set to music by Ivan Caryll. And where are "The Follies" going to meanwhile? Mr. Pelissier and most of his company have accepted an engagement at an enormous salary at the Leicester Square Empire, where matinées will be given three times a week of the entire show, and a "turn" much curtailed is to be included every evening in the usual Empire programme.

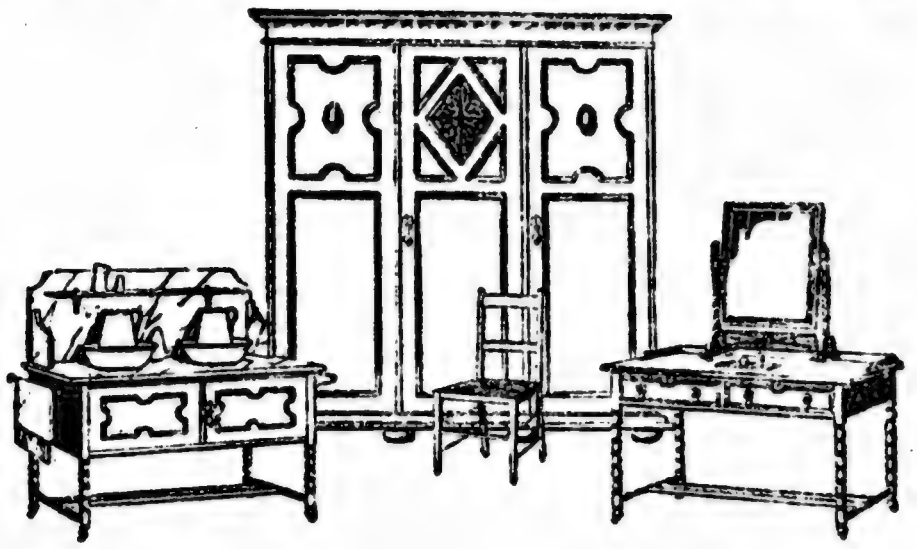
"Bella Donna."

The last nights of "Lady Windermere's Fan" have been disposed of, and now we are all on the *qui vive* of excitement concerning the new St. James's drama, with Mrs. Patrick Campbell as the wicked lady, who is just prevented by the astute Dr. Isaacson from becoming a murderess. As one of England's ablest actors remarked to me the other evening at a dinner, "You may like or dislike 'Mrs. Pat,' but you cannot get away from the fact that her personality is terrific, that she is clever to her finger tips, and that there is a peculiar weirdness about her that is most fascinating." I perfectly agree with this opinion of Mrs. Campbell, and if any actress can make the part of Bella Donna sympathetic it will be this talented one, but even when reading the book, although I was thrilled, I couldn't feel an atom of regret for the woman who deliberately plots to poison her husband. But we shall soon know what Mr. Fagan has done to enlist our pity for a would-be murderess. Sarah Bernhardt is about the only tragedienne I can remember who ever carried these sort of plays to success, and she generally got killed or took a fatal draught herself in the end.

A SEASONABLE REMINDER.

The approach of the festive season is signalled by Messrs. Raphael Tuck and Sons, who have sent us a large selection of their cards and calendars. Remarkable among them are the magnificent cards which the firm have again been entrusted to supply to the King, Queen, Prince of Wales, Queen Alexandra, the Czar of Russia and the German Emperor. The originals of these works of art are in the possession of the respective distinguished personages, and the subjects chosen are associated with some historical episode bearing upon the connection with this country of an illustrious ancestor. There is a very wide selection of calendars, in every case showing the perfection of art reproduction, among which may be mentioned "The Dickens Coaching," "The Burns," and "Picturesque Wales." The range of ordinary cards is apparently without limit, but all show the utmost taste. All classes are catered for—of children's cards, books and calendars there seems no end. Messrs. Tuck have more than sustained their reputation—which is saying a good deal.

Distinctive Furniture



6 ft. Oak Bedroom Suite, carried out on Jacobean lines, and finished a rich antique colour. The right hand side of the wardrobe is fitted with trays & drawers, and mirrors are fixed inside the two other doors **£26 10 0**

ALTHOUGH all our designs are on most artistic lines, we have not overlooked the fact that utility is also a necessity. Comfort has been studied in every possible way, and after years of wear our furniture retains the same beauty as it did the day it was purchased.

WE have just issued a new Catalogue containing over 600 illustrations which conveys at a glance exactly how a Cottage or bungalow can be furnished for £50 or a House for £2,000. We shall be pleased to post one of these free on application.

EVERY article in our Showrooms is marked in plain figures at competitive cash prices, and, if desired, may be obtained on our well-known Gradual Payment System, the payments extending over one, two or three years at the option of the purchaser. No interest or extra charges are added whatsoever and no deposit is required.

IN order to enable Country Customers to pay a personal visit to our Showrooms, we will defray their fares to Town on all orders of £30 and upwards.

COUNTRY ORDERS PACKED FREE AND CARRIAGE PAID.

Midland Furnishing Co.,

LIMITED,

15, 17, 19, 21 and 23, Southampton Row,

HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.

Six doors from the Holborn Restaurant and Holborn Station (G.N., P. & B. Rly.), 1 minute from British Museum Station (Central London Railway), and 3 minutes from Oxford Street

The John Bull League.

BRANCH REPORTS.

MANCHESTER.—Since the preliminary announcement, which appeared in our issue of last week, it has been found impossible to secure the Albion Hotel, and arrangements have accordingly been made to hold the annual meeting at the Chorlton Town Hall.

ABERDEEN.—A very successful open meeting was held on Monday, November 20th. The Local Chairman, Mr. C. R. Sibley, presided, and in the course of the evening gave an outline of the aims and objects of the League, which met with frequent applause. A musical programme was given, and items contributed by Miss Mabel Gordon and Messrs. David Gunn, A. Bain (who sang the League Song), C. R. Sibley, Simpson, Wilson and Chalmers, with Mr. J. S. Smith as accompanist. At the close a number of new members were enrolled.

DUNDEE.—The annual meeting of this branch was held on November 22nd at the City Hotel, Councillor R. M. Noble (Local Chairman) presiding over a fair attendance of members. A report of the year's work was presented by the Secretary, and unanimously adopted. The Chairman gave a most interesting address and dealt at length with the proposed Constitution, which is now under consideration. The meeting then proceeded to the election of a committee and officers, Councillor Noble being unanimously re-elected as Chairman and Mr. A. Carr as Vice-Chairman. The energetic Local Secretary, Mr. D. Ballingall, was enthusiastically re-elected, and a good working committee was formed. The meeting was followed by an open smoking concert.

GLASGOW.—The Camlachie Division of this branch held its first annual meeting on Tuesday evening, 21st November, in the Camlachie Institute, Gallowgate. Mr. John Pye, Chairman of the branch and also of the College Division, presided, and delivered an address, which was listened to very attentively by those present. The meeting then proceeded with the election of a committee of eight members and officers for the ensuing year, Mr. Dugald McLean being elected Chairman, Mr. Fenner, 418, Westmuir Street, Secretary, and Miss M. Halliday, Treasurer.

PLYMOUTH.—A grand smoking concert has been arranged at the Palm Court, Royal Hotel, Plymouth, on Thursday next, December 7th, 1911. All members are requested to attend, as important matters will be referred to during the evening. Ladies are cordially invited. The Hon. Local Secretary, Mr. A. E. Hutchings, 20, Albert Road, Plymouth, will be pleased to receive any offers of assistance with the programme.

EDINBURGH.—A remarkably successful smoking concert was held in connection with this branch on Friday, November 24th, in the Cathedral Hotel, Cockburn Street. Mr. John Robertson, solicitor, chairman of the local committee, presided, and in a few words of welcome expressed his pleasure in seeing such a large gathering of members and their friends. The loyal toasts having been proposed, the company settled down to enjoy the entertainment provided by a number of able artistes. In the course of the evening the League Song was magnificently rendered by Mr. William Baird, who, in addition, gave other items, which were much appreciated. A most attractive programme of songs, recitations, and comic stories was submitted, which was splendidly carried out by Messrs. R. Butler, Andrew McKee, Phil Terry, David Smart (elocutionist), Sam Atherton, Cowan, Wm. Blair, Cunningham, and McGaughley. Mr. McHugh accompanied at the piano. In addition the company were favoured with turns from Messrs. Jack Mills and Alec Thorne, comedians, who appeared after fulfilling their engagements at the Edinburgh Empire Theatre.

JOHN BULL'S CHRISTMAS PRESENT SCHEME

Valuable and Seasonable Gifts to our Readers.

Christmas is coming once more, and in accordance with our usual custom, we propose to distribute a large number of presents among our readers, asking them in return to make a special effort to increase further our already gigantic circulation.

The presents will comprise:—

£5 NOTES, POSTAL ORDERS, WATCHES, CLOCKS, TRAVELLING AND DRESSING BAGS, WORK BOXES, BICYCLES, UMBRELLAS, WALKING STICKS, PIPES, CIGARS & CIGARETTE CASES, CASES OF WINES & SPIRITS, TURKEYS, GEESE, AND PLUM PUDDINGS, CRACKERS, CUTLERY, GLASS, GAMES, BOOKS.

And a variety of other Useful Presents.

We wish we were in a position to give every reader something, but that being impracticable, the principle of allotment of the prizes will be the selection of the five hundred readers who, between now and December 20th next, in our opinion do the best work to increase our sales. There are many ways in which this can be done without involving any inconvenience or interference with ordinary work or occupations. Readers may pass their copies on to friends; they may buy an extra copy each and forward it to a relative or acquaintance in the country or abroad, with a recommendation of its merits; they may discuss its contents in the office, the workshop, the train and the tram; they may leave copies about wherever they go—in short, there is no limit to the things which may be done to attract attention to us.

All readers have to do is to fill up the coupon, when their names will be duly registered. Then, at any time up to, but not later than, December 13th they should send us reports of the efforts they are making on our behalf. Mark all envelopes containing coupons or reports with the word "Christmas" in the top left-hand corner.

(For Christmas Present Coupon see page 812.)

A CURE FOR YOU

NATURE'S REMEDY RESTORES HEALTH.

Here's a remedy that cures. No poisonous drug to wreck your stomach and nerves; no doctor or drug bills to pay.

This remedy is Nature's medicine, Electricity.

But how does electricity cure? you ask.

By building up new energy in every weak organ; by restoring human vitality wherever lost, and helping Nature remove the cause of the disease. When you get rid of the cause you have conquered the disease.

Nearly all the ailments which afflict mankind, outside of contagious diseases, are the result of low vitality, weakness, or inactivity of the vital organs.

When your nerves, heart, stomach, bowels, kidneys, liver or any other organ is overworked, or abused, there is bound to be trouble. But remember, the primary cause is the loss of energy and vitality.

There is but one way to restore this vitality, and that way is to fill your nerves with electricity.

The "Ajax" Battery pumps a glowing current of electric life into your body each day. It renews the strength and energy of every weak or diseased part, thereby removing the cause of the ailment. It is a dry-cell body battery which generates a steady, unbroken current of electricity. It makes its own power, and therefore requires no charging.

GET THIS FREE. Write at once for our 80-page illustrated book, which tells all about our method of treatment. This book explains many things you should know regarding the cause and cure of disease. If you can't call, we will post the book in a plain, sealed envelope, FREE.

THE BRITISH ELECTRIC INSTITUTE

(Dept. 41), 25, HOLBORN VIADUCT, LONDON, E.C.

The Young Man who takes Mustard regularly

at meals is not likely to grow into a "chronic dyspeptic" when he gets older. Mustard, good Mustard,

COLMAN'S D.S.F. mustard

materially assists the digestion and assimilation of food.

THE
LIVERPOOL VICTORIA
INSURANCE CORPORATION, LTD.
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL £421,408
Life. Fire. Accident.
Motor. Burglary. Plate Glass.
'THE BUSINESS WOMAN'S' INVESTMENT POLICY.
No Medical Examination required. Prospectus sent on request.
AGENCY APPLICATIONS INVITED.
HEAD OFFICE:
45-49, HOLBORN VIADUCT, LONDON, E.C.

BULL'S EYES.

NOTES OF INTERROGATION:—
Isn't the Insurance Bill proving a heavy one for the Government?
Hasn't "Grab" been a popular European game lately?
Do the Suffragettes think that "Genius is the art of breaking panes"?
Does East London agree that "nought" is half the battleship?
Isn't a Servants' Tax that "won't work" rather inappropriate?
Aren't they proving "Go-by-elections" for the Government?
Wouldn't "years of discretion" be the best age-limit for voters?
Won't operators be "put out" by automatic telephone exchanges?
Was "Turkey Trot," the new dance, invented in Italy?
Had the *Hawke* "lost her way" when she struck the *Olympic*?
Isn't another railway strike only a matter of "time"?
Why didn't Captain Scott get "ready" before starting for the Pole?
Has the Rev. F. B. Meyer been seen at the Garrick Theatre?

A woman has been pelting a vicar with hymn-books. Good-looking young curates get slippers.

"Death for Having Large Feet," reads a heading. Was that the sole offence?

A Swiss excursion train which broke down was pushed to the next station by the passengers. Here is a hint for our suburban travellers.

A vicar has invented a cure for snoring. We suggest another—more interesting sermons.

The plumber may not be perfect, but he always "makes a good job" of any little thing he has to do.

A copy of Bacon's essays recently fetched £1,000 per ounce. At that price some modern books would cost a million.

King Manoel has decided to remain in Richmond for the present. We think it will be "healthier" for him than Portugal.

"Love, like coin, is tested by the ring," says a contemporary. But, unlike it, false love is easily changed.

Many of the Suffragettes arrested in the recent riot were armed with hammers. They evidently intended to give the Government a hard rap.

Leyton wants to plant rambler roses against the walls of its elementary schools. We fear it will not make them any more attractive to the scholars.

After being played for seven months, the bathing scene in "Kismet" has been banned by the Censor. It takes some people a long time to find fault.

"The French have no joy," says the *Sketch*. Yet they have the reputation of being "gay."

There are 7,476 licensed taxi-cabs in London. It is hard to believe this on a wet night.

Two Short biplanes have been offered to the Territorials. The type of machine will match the rest of their equipment.

"*Lusitania* on Fire at Sea," reads a heading. These big liners *will* scorch.

George Eliot said: "The Almighty made women to match men," but the truth is they are more than a match for them.

The title of a new book, "The Pond," suggests that it is anything but dry.

"It is not easy to go out into the wilderness for our convictions," says Evelyn Sharp. Or to escape them, as some criminals have discovered.

An advertisement in a Paris paper reads "Required, a pianist who can play duets by himself." Decidedly a "handy" man.

The twenty-seven youths found "stowed away" on a ship probably got a different sort of hiding to the one they were looking for.

The Morning-Bath
Incidents from a Lady's life 2 Pictures
is not complete without some "4711" Eau de Cologne added to it. The "4711" cannot fail to enhance the invigorating effect of the Bath. It enlivens and rejuvenates the whole System. Therefore the constant use of "4711" is the Essence of Modern Hygiene.
Insist upon the Blue & Gold labelled "4711" and refuse Substitutes.
Sold everywhere.
No. 4711. Eau de Cologne

WHY PAY SHOP PRICES?

BEDSTEADS

Newest patterns in Metal and Wood of every description. Bedding, Wire Mattresses, Cots, Chair Beds, &c. Furniture—Bedrooms and General. *All goods sent direct from factory to home, saving middle profits.* Send post-card to-day for Illustrated Price Lists (post free). I allow discount for cash, or supply goods payable in monthly instalments, or in any way that will suit you. Established 22 years. CHARLES RILEY, (Desk B), MOOR St., BIRMINGHAM.
Please mention JOHN BULL when writing for lists.

The gift that is sure to be appreciated

Shirley President Braces

In a Beautiful Holly Box—a gift that costs the minimum price to the donor and gives the maximum comfort to the recipient.
THE SHIRLEY PRESIDENT BRACE.
The only brace that ensures absolute ease and comfort, and perfect freedom of movement. Every genuine pair has the manufacturer's signed guarantee—"Satisfaction, New Pair or Money Back," and on the Buckles "Shirley President."
2/6 per pair. Of all Hosiers & Outfitters

AGENTS—A. MERCHANT & CO., 7, Fore St., London, E.C., who supply the Wholesale.

DUNVILLE'S
V R
WHISKY

May be obtained from all Wine and Spirit Merchants.

In 3, 6 and 12 Bottle Cases.

Insist on seeing "BOTTLED BY DUNVILLE & CO. LTD." on the Capsule and Back label. NONE OTHER GUARANTEED GENUINE.

Write direct for name of nearest retailer to

DUNVILLE & CO. Ltd., Belfast or London.

JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[The EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when forwarding cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when referring to previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag," and* ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "tit-bit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPES ARE SENT FOR THE PURPOSE. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. *The most suitable lengths for articles and stories are about 750 words (one column), or 1,500 words (a page).*

The EDITOR *cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be forwarded.*

F. D. (Cambridge), apropos of our paragraph relating to the "smoof" fresmen defrauding University tradesmen, reminds us that *the "High"* is situated at Oxford—not at Cambridge. The mistake doubtless arose through the rascals having the hardihood to visit Oxford a week after playing their pranks at the sister University town. We congratulate our correspondent upon being cute enough to see through their little game when they endeavoured to trick him.

C. J. C. (Forest Gate, E.), who says he has been prevented by illness from working for three years, wants a subscriber's ticket for a *sanatorium*, or similar institution. Can any reader help?

W. C. S. (Taunton).—Almost every town has a *Ratepayers' Association*. Try the secretary in the place nearest you; doubtless he will be glad to tell you how to go about forming one in Taunton.

"SOLICITOR" (Highbury) complains that whilst the newspapers gladly publish details of *frauds* practised *upon backers*, they rarely mention the numerous *tricks* played *upon bookmakers*. We certainly think there should be a little more "give and take."

A. R. (Portland).—We understand that Mr. Bonar Law's father was born in the North of Ireland, educated at the Glasgow University, and lived in Canada. His mother was Scotch. *Mr. Bonar Law* was born in Canada, where he lived till he was 12, and afterwards, till the time he became a Member of Parliament, he spent his life in Scotland. His exact nationality is, therefore, somewhat of a problem.

J. A. RIDLEY (Dorchester, New Brunswick), late Chief Officer of the S.S. *Delamere*, sentenced on February 14th, 1908, to seven years' penal servitude, wishes to inform his friends that he was released from Parkhurst Convict Prison on November 9th. In the special circumstances, we shall be pleased to break our rule by forwarding to him any letters from friends which may be addressed c.o. this office.

E. A. C. (Hither Green) sounds the praises of the *Midland Furnishing Company*. He says, "From the first, I was unable (through no fault of my own) to meet the small monthly payments, but the Company has been most considerate."

"A READER" (London, W.).—You must be in error, as no early door fee is charged at *the Palladium* for the 1s. pit; whilst you should have requested the return of your money when you found the house was full, when it would doubtless have been forthcoming.

E. A. (Chesterfield).—We do not know anything about "*H. Diamond, Lucerne*," except what you tell us, and don't want to.

W. D. (Kilmarnock).—The advertisement of the *British Clothing Club* (Jewellery Dept.), 93, Oldham Street, Manchester, is undoubtedly misleading.

C. L. (Penge).—Thanks for full quotation: "Our entry to *life* is naked and bare, Our journey through life is trouble and care, Our exit out of it I know not where; But by doing well here, we shall do well there, And I could not say more if I preached a year." Sentiment excellent, but rhythm atrocious.

E. W. A. (Soberton).—Sorry we forgot to award the *Rev. W. A. Morley*, your rector, a biscuit for announcing during the summer that "owing to the excessive heat I shall preach *no sermon* this morning; I am not doing this for my benefit but for yours." As, however, our reverend friend recently announced that he could not preach "owing to the extreme cold," he is obviously now entitled to two biscuits. Has he good teeth?

H. H. (Canonbury, N.) AND OTHERS say that the *Consul in Zurich* is English; also that it is a gross slander to say the Swiss rob the English.

L. M. (Manchester).—Undoubtedly an ominous advertisement: "Wanted smart, intelligent youth for *credit tailoring* business; one with knowledge of *County Court work* preferred."

"WATCHER."—The October 28th issue of "Home Circle" is before us. There is a picture of a girl in a scarlet dress, and the letterpress reads: "The Girl who was Too Big for her Shoes. Read about her *Inside*." No, thank you.

"VERY TRULY DISGUSTED" (Acocks Green).—What do you expect us to say about the *Roman Catholics* in your neighbourhood resorting to the sale of 3d. *lottery tickets* in order to raise money to enable them to build a church, with one of the prizes as six bottles of whisky? Why not?

(Continued on page 810.)

A Chauffeur

Neuralgia, Loss of Nerve—

Everywhere the *exceptional* ability and energy of Mr. Willan is winning good opinions, so *well* does he accomplish everything since Phosferine drove out his nervous disorders and gave him the vigour to *get the best out of himself*. Wisely recognising that his doubt, hesitation, and loss of nerve when motor driving in heavy traffic was due to the intense *nervous strain* of his work, Mr. Willan promptly enlisted the aid of Phosferine to supplement his waning vitality. Within a few hours this acute young man began to feel such an unmistakable increase of nervous force that his self-confidence returned re-inforced with a steadiness and self-control previously unknown. So evident was the beneficial effect of Phosferine that the rapid disappearance of all nervous disorders was assured, and Mr. Willan declares he is now far more active in mind and body *entirely* owing to the re-energising properties of Phosferine.

Totally Removed.

Mr. L. Willan, Jnr., 14, Bedford Road, Tottenham, writes:—"My work as a motor-car driver and mechanic naturally puts great strain upon my nervous system, and were it not for Phosferine I should be constantly put to the expense of seeking medical aid, and laying up from my duties. I never think of going a long journey, or touring, unless I have a bottle of your excellent tonic in my kit. I find it always puts my nerves right and braces me up generally, and whenever I feel at all run down, or get an attack of neuralgia or headache, a few doses quickly removes the trouble. In my work one has to be always on the alert, ready and equal to any emergency, and in fast travelling or heavy traffic, the tension is tremendous. Before I started Phosferine I began to get worried and fearful, and it is a marvel I did not get involved in an accident, but since taking Phosferine I have fully regained my self-confidence, and whether in the crowded London traffic or the fast country runs, I feel as though I and my car were one, and no danger finds me unprepared or wanting in resource."—Aug. 4, 1911.

PHOSFERINE

GREATEST OF ALL TONICS.

A PROVEN REMEDY FOR

NEURALGIA	MATERNITY WEAKNESS	HYSTERIA
RHEUMATISM	NERVOUS HEADACHES	SLEEPLESSNESS
BRAIN-FAG	PREMATURE DECAY	EXHAUSTION
LASSITUDE	INFLUENZA	MALARIA
INDIGESTION	ANAEMIA NEURITIS	NERVOUSNESS

And all disorders consequent upon a reduced state of the nervous system.

The Royal Tonic.

Phosferine has been supplied by Royal Commands to

The Royal Family	H.M. the King of Greece
H.I.M. The Empress of Russia	H.M. the King of Spain
H.I.M. the Dowager Empress of Russia	The Imperial Family of China

And the Principal Royalty and Aristocracy throughout the World.

The 2/9 size contains nearly four times the 1/1½ size.

SORE THROAT:

Its Cure and Prevention.

The sore throat epidemic is still raging, and many cases are reported in which this common ailment has developed into some dangerous throat disease like Diphtheria. For this reason doctors are busy just now examining sore throats, as depicted in the above illustration.

Science has now provided the physician with a means not only of curing and preventing sore throat, but also safeguarding people against the many infectious diseases of which sore throat is a symptom The name of this remedy is Wulfing's Formamint, and every reader of this paper can test its efficacy by sending the attached coupon to-day for a free sample.

The Dowager Countess of Wicklow writes that she "cannot recommend Wulfing's Formamint too highly as a cure for throat troubles."

The Venerable Archdeacon of Bristol writes: "I habitually carry Wulfing's Formamint tablets as a preventive of sore throat."

How Formamint Cures and Prevents Sore Throat.

These pleasant-tasting tablets infuse into the saliva a disinfecting substance which quickly destroys the germs causing sore throat and other infectious maladies.

The pain is thus allayed at once, and in a short time the sore throat is cured.

A Genuine Remedy.

Over 7,000 practising physicians have publicly certified to the value of Wulfing's Formamint, and it was awarded the Grand Prix at the Great International Hygiene Exhibition, Dresden, 1911, representing the highest medical and scientific opinion in the world.

Thousands of eminent people are users of Formamint, including the Right Hon. Arthur J. Balfour., M.P.

Why is Formamint so popular both with physicians and the public? Because it is a *genuine* remedy, as Lord Kingsale has publicly stated. "I find Formamint tablets are *all that* you say they are," he writes, "and I have recommended them to many friends."

Better than anyone's recommendation, however, is a personal trial of Formamint, which you are now invited to make.

Warning to the Public.

Having tried *genuine* Formamint, which is sold by all chemists, price 1s. 11d. per bottle, you will be careful to avoid worthless imitations.

FREE SAMPLE.

Messrs. A. Wulfing & Co., 12, Chenies Street, London, W.C.

Please send me a sample of Formamint, which I have not yet tried. I enclose two penny stamps for postage, etc.

Name .....

Address .....

F. 47. .....

POULTON & NOEL'S XMAS HAMPERS

CONTENTS OF GUINEA HAMPER:

1 Glass "Belgravian" Rolled Ox Tongue
1 Large Smoked Ox Tongue
1 Glass Oxford Brawn
1 Glass Pressed Brisket of Beef
1 Glass Potted Salmon and Shrimp
1 Glass Potted Chicken and Ham
1 Glass Ox-Tail Soup
1 Glass Chicken, Ham and Tongue Galantine
1 Glass Potted Wild Duck
1 Jar Strawberry Jam
1 Jar Seville Orange Marmalade
1 Bottle Greengages
1 Bottle "P. & O." Sauce
1 2-lb. Basin Christmas Pudding

CONTENTS OF HALF-GUINEA HAMPER:

1 Glass "Belgravian" Rolled Ox Tongue
1 Glass Lunch Tongue
1 Glass Galantine Chicken and Ham
1 Glass Oxford Brawn
1 Glass Salmon and Shrimp
1 Glass Ox-Tail Soup
1 Jar Seville Orange Marmalade
1 Jar Strawberry Jam
1 Basin Christmas Pudding

DELIVERED FREE.

Please order through your grocer. If any difficulty in obtaining write:

POULTON & NOEL, Ltd., Belgravian Works, LONDON.

WE NOW SPEAK

—of a solidly-built little apparatus, a Brass Standard Lamp of the utmost substantiality. Moreover, it is "a thing of beauty," for it represents a true model of a Corinthian column, and its handsome fitting shade, which may be had in the colour best suited to the scheme of a room, gives the necessary aspect of grace and delicacy. . . . The diameter of the shade is 9 inches, while that of the lamp itself is 17 inches over all

* * * * * * *

The inestimable benefit of being able to move your light about at pleasure, to desk, piano or mantel-shelf, as the whim or exigency of the moment demands, will at once be realised. . . . As for the fitting it is simplicity itself, all that is necessary being merely to remove the bulb from the ordinary electric light installation, fit the adaptor, place the bulb in the Standard Lamp, and, hey presto! your new lighting apparatus is ready for use. . . . You immediately turn on the switch to convince yourself: and are convinced!

Sold complete, with key switch at top and three yards of wire, at the extraordinary low price of **10/-**

Money returned if purchaser be not entirely satisfied.
Letter Orders promptly filled, and Carriage Paid in British Isles.

SELFRIDGE & CO., LTD.,
Oxford Street, London, W.

Best Vulcanite Mouthpiece scientifically constructed to minimise the pressure upon the teeth

This unique design, made in all the favourite patterns, ensures a thoroughly cool and comfortable smoke.

The general excellence of this pipe will delight even the most discriminating smoker.

Price **2 6** each.

(Silver mounted)

Of all Tobacconists and Stores

HIGH-GRADE POSITIONS.

..We have always a large number of High-Grade Positions open in Clerical, Technical, Organising and Travelling capacities—positions carrying salaries of from £150–£1,000—and we want to hear from really High-Grade Men who are capable of filling them. If you are a man possessed of Special Ability, write us to-day—or call.

HAPGOODS Ltd., 167-168, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

"A NEEDLEWOMAN" (Brighton).—See "Mrs. Bull."

E. O. (Exeter).—There are moments when *our printer* has no conscience, and one of them was when he calendared the Battle of Inkerman as 1845.

"RUTHVEN."—If you fire any more *poetry* at us we shall use it *for curl-papers.*

A. W. (Hackney Road, N.E.) wishes to warn readers against *E. Charles and Co.*, 225, High Holborn, who, he says, write polite postcards to persons advertising for a situation asking them to call.

H. C. J. (Maghull).—If you take our advice you will have nothing whatever to do with the *Football Association Cup Sweepstake*, Geneva, at 2s. 6d. a ticket.

R. M. R. (Liverpool).—It is indisputable that only about one-third of the Liverpool bench were present when the drastic proposals were passed re *early closing*; but this is the price people have sometimes to pay, or which they make others pay, for neglecting their duty.

J. C., J. R., J. P. M., A. H., W. S., J. W., "ABERDEEN AWA'" (Boston, U.S.A.), all Scots *free* hame, protest against the allegation of *Mr. Harry Lauder* that he cannot find a piper in all Scotland good enough to play in his castle, and that he is looking for one in Boston. He may be pulling the legs of the Bostonians.

"HADRIAN" (Wallsend), objects to the *special constable*, or amateur policeman, scheme of Mr. Churchill. So do many other people.

"IRISH" (Dublin).—Timothy the Healyite is correct in his statement that *Mr. Asquith* in his young days went down into Yorkshire and *challenged Gladstone* to produce the details of his rumoured Home Rule Bill.

"ABERTHROWE."—If the *Aber Valley Silver Band* does not publish a balance sheet in due course we shall have to take serious notice of the matter.

"A THINKER" (Haslemere).—An article on "*The Bishop and the Baby*" was published in "Mrs. Bull." How can we tell why the Bishop of London, who is so horrified about the deliberate limitation of families, "does not, with his thousands a year, take unto himself a healthy wife and manufacture a baker's dozen"? Ask his lordship.

"RED TAPE" (Aberdeen).—We note your complaint that the hot-houses and palm houses at *Edinburgh Botanical Gardens* are not open until one o'clock in the afternoon because the workmen do not finish tidying up until noon, and then all go to dinner together.

J. B. AND M. B. (C.-on-Medlock).—We will keep our eye on the *Mossley Team Smash inquiry.*

"UMBRELLA" (Redhill) recently travelled from Three Bridges to Redhill in the company of an elderly gentleman who had constantly to change his seat owing *to rain coming through* the roof. Why did he not put up his umbrella?

"NO MORE GERMAN LINERS."—You say you are *en route* for Australia aboard the *S.S. Koenigen Luise*, and that the petty restrictions aboard for third-class passengers are unbearable. You are not even allowed to sing on deck, and hardly one steward in attendance upon third-classers can speak English. *Bon voyage*, all the same.

"DUMB ANIMALS' FRIEND" (Highgate) tells us that the *conductor of a tramcar* passing Seven Sisters' Road on a recent Sunday night found *a strange dog* on the car. He asked to whom it belonged, nobody knew, "so he got hold of the dog and threw it off the car, which was going at a good speed." Who else saw this incident, for the conductor is a brute and ought to be prosecuted?

"HALF BREED" (Penzance).—Unless we see in print the allegations made by *Mr. Pooley* against the other councillor we cannot deal with them.

"MIDDLESEX," who recently complained that the only existing homes for *mentally defective children* are for paupers, or those whose parents can pay two or three guineas a week, is informed by the Secretary of the Parkwood Asylum, Redhill, Surrey, that at that well-known and excellently managed institution patients are received by election gratuitously, or on the payment of fees ranging from fifteen guineas per annum, inclusive, to several hundreds—according to special accommodation, etc. He should, therefore, communicate with the Secretary for further information.

T. J. (Blackwall) sends us the following effusion:—

> As the John Bulls and Misses Bulls are to old England
> So is JOHN BULL and *Mrs. Bull* to them
> Without them so dreary would be England
> So read, mark, learn, ye fair sex and men.

He doubtless means well.

P. G. (Jarvis Brook) recently bought some *head and stomach pills.* Upon opening them he found they each contained a caraway seed. He should think himself lucky there was nothing worse inside.

[*We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.*]

"THE PEOPLE v. LLOYD GEORGE."

Those who think that Mr. Lloyd George is the sworn enemy of the people will find delightful pabulum in a little illustrated book just published by Odhams Limited, Long Acre, London, under this title, at a shilling. Those who don't—and there are such—had better avoid the book.

LOOKING AHEAD.

To be ready to deliver "on time," for the Christmas festivities Messrs. Graves, the well-known Sheffield firm, have been working at pressure for many months in order to keep pace with a record demand. Customers are, however, advised, in their own interests, to place their orders at once to make absolutely certain of delivery in time. In every one of Messrs. Graves' departments, orders are dealt with strictly in rotation.

GROWS NEW HAIR IN 30 DAYS.

New discovery causes b'g stir among hair specialists.

£200 Reward if they fail.

Prove it yourself by cutting out and posting the free coupon below to-day.

If you have become prematurely grey or are troubled with hair or scalp disease such as falling hair, dandruff, baldness, itching scalp, or thin and dry starveling hair, you know quite well the humiliation that they cause. There is no longer, however, any reason to be troubled with these conditions. All these troubles can be quickly and positively overcome by the remarkable new discovery recently made at the Creslo Laboratories. This discovery, since it was brought to light a little over a year ago, has been found to contain marvellous properties for producing a new growth of thick, luxuriant hair on all bald places. In subjecting it to various tests in the worst known cases of baldness, dandruff, itching scalp, etc., the results obtained by the experimenting chemists were considered almost miraculous. In every case it was found that where there were any hair roots left, it produced a new and luxuriant growth of beautiful new hair in from four to six weeks' time. In cases of scalp and hair diseases, such as dandruff, falling hair, itching scalp, etc., it was found that the unnatural conditions were corrected and often completely cured by two or three applications. Grey or faded hair also returned to its original colour and glossy softness. This great discovery (which has been named Crystolis) will, without doubt, put an end to the troublesome scalp and hair diseases that are becoming so common with the British people. Women who have been forced into wearing false hair, and men who have had to

Why wear transformations or wigs when 'Crystolis' really grows hair?

resort to wigs, will greatly welcome this marvellous product, as, apart from its other virtues, it greatly adds to the gloss and lustre of the old hair. Besides, it contains no oil, and makes the hair light and fluffy, so enhancing the youthful appearance of all who use it.

Here is a testimonial selected at random from the hundreds coming to hand every week. Mrs. Smith, Parchmore Road, Thornton Heath, writes: "20 months ago my hair began to fall out, and in a few weeks I was *completely* bald. I experimented with all sorts of treatments, visited several doctors and hospitals, but all to no avail. I began to use Crystolis seven weeks ago, and my head is now well covered with new hair."

The managers of the Creslo Laboratories have such strong faith in Crystolis that they have decided to make the following remarkable offer: They will forfeit £200 in gold if they fail to prove that Crystolis actually grows hair. They will forfeit £200 in gold if anyone can prove they were not the first discoverers of Crystolis. They will forfeit £500 in gold if it can be proved that it contains any oil, dye or colouring matter of any kind. They will forfeit £200 in gold if every testimonial and sworn statement which they publish is not absolutely genuine. Arrangements have been made with the Laboratories to furnish free information in regard to this new process to all readers of this paper. Merely cut out and send in the coupon below, and you will receive particulars of this marvellous new product by return.

HAIR GROWN IN 30 DAYS.

FREE CRYSTOLIS COUPON.

Cut out this coupon to-day and send it with your full name and address. To the Creslo Laboratories, Ltd., 6 and 8, Beuverie Street, London, E.C., for free information regarding Crystolis, the new discovery for growing hair. *Coupon No. 49*

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General Manager: MR. ALBERT ARCHDEACON.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, at 7.45

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The Golden Land of Fairy Tales.

Prices:—Boxes, £3 3s., £2 2s., £1 1s. Stalls, 10/6, 7/6. Circle, 6/-, 5/-. Upper Circle, 4/-, 3/-. Pit (unreserved), 2/-. Gallery, 1/-

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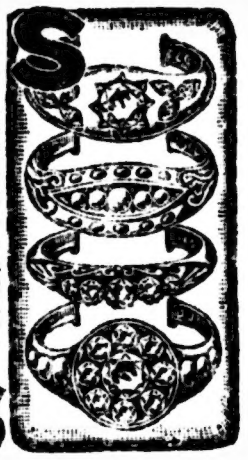

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is a wonderful preparation that really does develop the bust.

Simple in its use and action—one can carry out the treatment in one's own private room—without trouble or inconvenience of any kind.

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Send **5/6** and this new and unfailing preparation will be mailed you by return, post free, in plain and sealed wrapper.

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Restores gloss and Brilliancy—stops hair falling—nourishes and strengthens the roots—removes dandruff—positively makes the hair grow—is a beneficial and pleasant dressing for daily use.

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JUNON Ltd., Marsham St., Westminster, S.W.

RACING NOTES.

By W. LOTINGA.

("*Larry Lynx*" *of* THE PEOPLE, "*Double U. L.*" *of* LOTINGA'S WEEKLY, *and* "*Magpie*" *of* THE GLOBE.)

Jockeys at Football.

Never previously have the leading horsemen figured as a football team, as will be the case on Monday week at the Craven Cottage Ground, Fulham, and those near town will have something of a treat in seeing a really sporting game in aid of charity. The jockeys will be selected from the following:—C. Trigg, F. Winter, W. Griggs, J. Plant, F. Wootton, J. Clark, F. Templeman, F. Fox, R. Crisp, E. Piper, S. Donoghue, F. Rickaby, and will be captained by the King's jockey, H. Jones; whilst their opponents will be a team of popular notabilities, selected from some of the following:—Ernest Barry (English sculling champion), Harold Hilton (English golf champion), Matt Wells (English light-weight boxing champion), T. W. Burgess (Channel swimmer), J. Arnst (sculling), "Razor" Smith (cricket), G. A. Olley (cycling), W. J. Bailey (cycling), Harry Vardon (golf), George Duncan (golf), Bombardier Wells (English boxing champion), George Gray (Australian billiard champion), Jack Johnson (world's heavy-weight boxing champion), H. T. Blackstaffe (rowing), W. Albany (sculling), W. D. Kinnear (sculling), M. Inman (billiards), J. H. Taylor (golf), G. P. Huntley, George Graves, Harry Tate, George Robey, etc.; captained by W. Lotinga ("Larry Lynx"). Kick off at 2.15 sharp, and each of the players will be identified by his wearing a number. Ladies are invited in force.

Prophetic.

It is futile to attempt to wager until there is some ground for the selections, but such will quickly be formed as the events are run through. At Kempton, on Friday, if he is not saved for Sandown the following week, BEDGROVE should win the Uxbridge Handicap, whilst ERY FALO, fit from the flat and already an accomplished jumper, should return to the game with success in the Hurdle Handicap. On Saturday, LACE, on the Liverpool form, helped by his experience on this course, looks quite a good thing in the Staying Handicap, whilst CANNOCK LAD will go close in the Middlesex Steeplechase, the danger being BELUS. Should he not have won in the interim, PROUD BIRD seems to have the beating of those in the Vauxhall Handicap.

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£25 *FREE OFFER open to all Clients.*

The "Mirror of Life" for Oct. 22nd says:—

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Our Football Annual sent free on mentioning this paper.

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I have assisted to bring the circulation of JOHN BULL up to *One Million Copies* in the following manner:—

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Letters must bear not later than 2 p.m. postmark on Saturday.

THE EDITOR OF THE "RACING JUDGE," OCT. 7, SAYS:—

"A friend tells us that one of the sights of Basle, Switzerland, is the arrival of White, Fisher & Co.'s mail every Sunday. This well-known Firm of Football Accountants has been established for fifteen years, and the magnitude of their business speaks well for their methods."

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16/1 against 6 Home Teams: 24 1 7 H. T.; 15 1 3 Away Teams: 29/1 4 A. T.; 96/1 5 T.; 18 1 2 Draws: 76/1 3 Draws: 26/1 1 H. and 3 A.; 33/1 2 H. and 3 A.; 63/1 3 H. and 3 A.; 39 1 4 H. and 2 A.

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Louis design mahogany bedroom suite, 28 guineas; 6 ft. walnut bedroom suite, 40 guineas; 7 ft. inlaid Sheraton design bedroom suite, with bow front to wardrobe, 60 guineas; 7 ft. satinwood bedroom suite, 10 guineas; several inlaid chests, from 50s.; 6 ft. walnut wardrobe, 15 guineas; 6 ft. 6 in. mahogany wardrobe, fitted drawers and trays, 12 guineas; several iron bedsteads, from 9s.; black and brass bedsteads, 10s.; full size black and brass bedsteads, with wire springs, 21s.; 9 oak bedsteads, 15s.; pair brass twin bedsteads, 5 guineas; pair white and brass twin bedsteads, 3 guineas; inlaid Sheraton bedstead, including wire spring mattress, £3 15s.; full size all brass bedstead, 60s.; pair mahogany twin bedsteads, £2 19s. 6d.; full size all brass square tube Italian bedstead, 8 guineas, and several others up to 18 guineas. The Dining Room furniture comprises fumed oak dining room suite, consisting of large size sideboard, 6 chairs, 2 carving chairs, overmantel, dining table, rug, etc., will accept £13 7s. 6d. the lot; most massive carved oak Elizabethan design dining room set, consisting of sideboard with bevelled plate glass back, oxydised copper fittings, fitted cellarette, 6 massive carved oak chairs, and 2 carving chairs to match, dining table, 10 guineas the set a similar set, with large sideboard and 2 lounge easy chairs, upholstered in red leather, 25 guineas; magnificent oak dining room suite, £8 15s.; oak suite, in green pegamoid, £3 19s. 6d.; sideboard to match, 4 guineas; overmantel, 30s.; Queen Anne design dining room suite, £5 15s.; sideboard to match, £7 15s.; dining table, £2 15s.; handsome Queen Anne design mahogany dining room set, upholstered in red leather, £7 19s. 6d. dining table to match, 4 guineas; Chippendale design set of chairs, ball and claw feet, exquisite design, 12 guineas; oak, walnut and mahogany sideboards large variety in stock, from £4 10s. to 40 guineas; about 50 odd dining room chairs; 20 dining tables, from 21s.; oak bureau, 21s.; pedestal writing tables; roll top desks, all sizes; revolving bookcases; a most superb Chesterfield, and 2 large club easy chairs to match in green leather, £15 10s.; mahogany secretaire bookcase, enclosed by 2 glass doors, cupboards under, 8 guineas. The Drawing Room furniture comprises very fine drawing room suite, upholstered in art tapestry, £3 10s.; another design suite, £6 10s.; satinwood finish drawing room suite, 7 guineas; an elegant design Louis XIV. gilt drawing room suite, £19 10s.; another set, similar design, 14 guineas; Chesterfield drawing room suite, with 2 large lounge easy chairs, and 4 solid mahogany chairs, most exquisite design, £12 10s. 6d.; large size double sprung Chesterfield and 2 large easy chairs to match, covered in silk tapestry, 22 guineas; set of Dutch Marquetrie chairs, 14 guineas; handsome design Vernis Marten cabinet, 16 guineas; another, 12 guineas; Buhl cabinet, 11 guineas; another, 14 guineas; table en suite, 8 guineas; Chesterfields, from £3 10s. to 10 guineas; Chippendale design cabinet, £2 19s. 6d.; similar one, £5 15s.; Sheraton design cabinet, £3 15s.; Sheraton design specimen table, 50s.; occasional tables, from 12s. 6d.; occasional chairs, 50 in stock, from 6s. 6d.; 2 white enamel over-mantels, 18s. 6d. and 27s. 6d.; oval gilt table, 10 guineas; pair 9-light candelabra, 6 guineas; 5-light candelabra, 10 guineas; clock in ormolu case, £8 15s.; piano, 8 guineas; an upright piano, iron frame, £12 15s.; ditto, by Carl Strauss, 20 guineas; and several others in stock up to 40 guineas; grand pianos by Steinway Bechstein, Bluthner, etc. Large stock of carpets, Tapestry, Mirzapore, Turkey, and Oriental carpets and rugs to match, from 18s. 6d.; a large variety of Axminster and Wilton carpets, always in stock, from £3 15s. Hall furniture—Hall stands, from 20s.; hall cupboard, 3 guineas; large quantity of electro-plate, china, cutlery, kitchen utensils, curtains, bed and table linen, etc.

Country buyers should call and inspect these goods. All goods delivered Town or Country free of charge, or can remain stored 12 months free of charge. All goods can be seen where they are now lying for the convenience of sale, any day from 9 till 9, except Saturday, when we close at 7 o'clock, at

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The following claims have been received for our issue of last week 21st:

P. S. WITHINGTON, 29, Edmund Street, Rochdale—No. 432,156. October 21st.

JOHN MACKENZIE, c.o. A. Schofield, 2, Hill Street, Radcliffe Park, Kirkintilloch—No. 8,707. October 21st.

JOSEPH STONE, 35, Burditt Street, Devonia Road, Boa. E.—No. 229,128. October 21st.

The following are the fifty numbers for the issue of November 4th:—

6198	234470	367587	605021	766067
31331	245405	401988	622986	773319
36799	256029	416010	680410	778160
68765	258730	461433	694648	828941
69326	265316	493010	610007	843903
106364	269372	497507	716091	855770
133111	276803	510869	743276	858935
185264	307320	534312	749093	862594
195144	331750	564460	756980	868180
214699	373623	593413	760179	872533

INITIAL NOUGHTS SHOULD BE DISREGARDED, BUT FINAL ONES ARE, OF COURSE, RECKONED.

THE FIFTY NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR ISSUE DATED DECEMBER 30TH (PUBLISHED DECEMBER 28TH).

The John Bull League.

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